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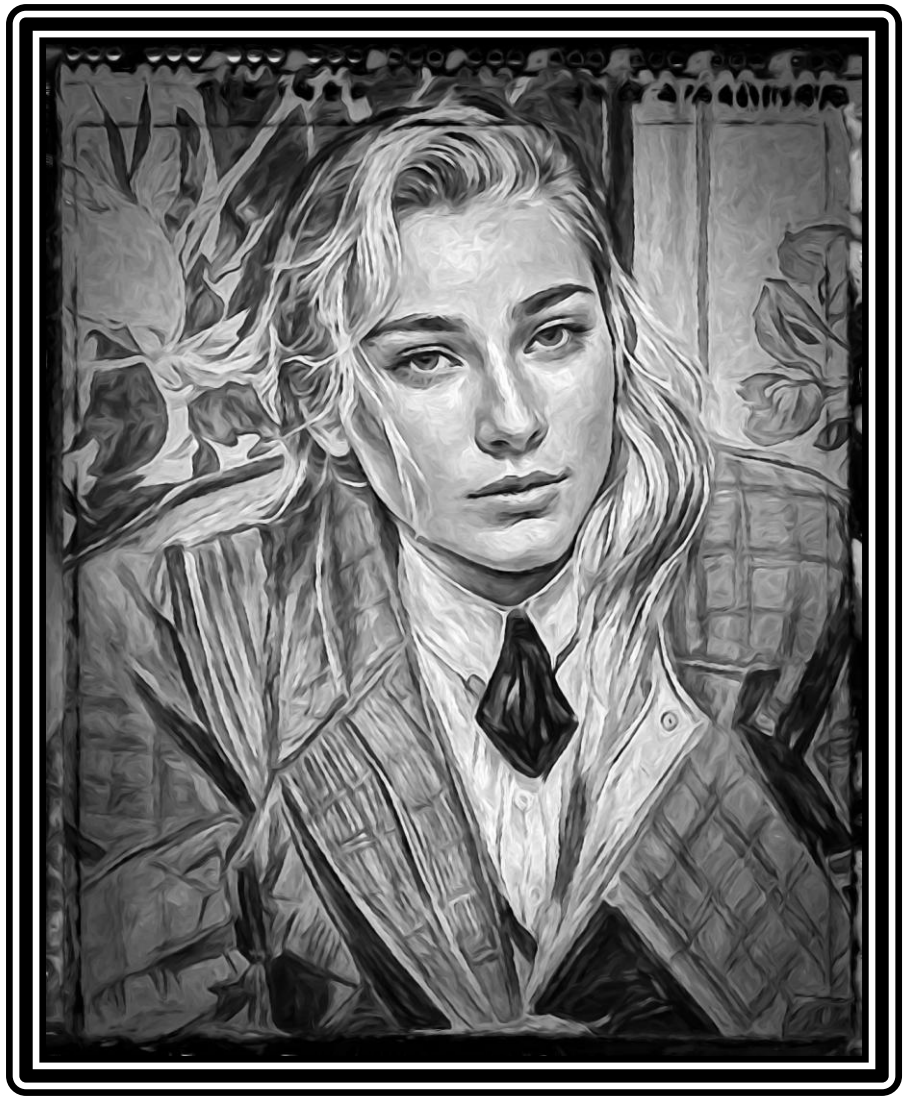

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After two unsuccessful attempts, I embarked on my third journey to navigate the border and transition from the formerly French-controlled region of the Rhineland into the heart of France.

The phrase "third time's the charm" seems to have been coined by someone blissfully unaware of the complexities posed by the French Customs Police.

Each crossing has been a lesson in patience and perseverance, as

the meticulous scrutiny of customs officials can turn even the simplest passage into a daunting ordeal.
The anticipation of finally stepping foot in France was palpable, yet the reality of navigating the bureaucratic labyrinth loomed large, reminding me that the charm of the third attempt might just be a whimsical notion in the face of such formidable challenges.
The young officer I encountered was surprisingly amiable and

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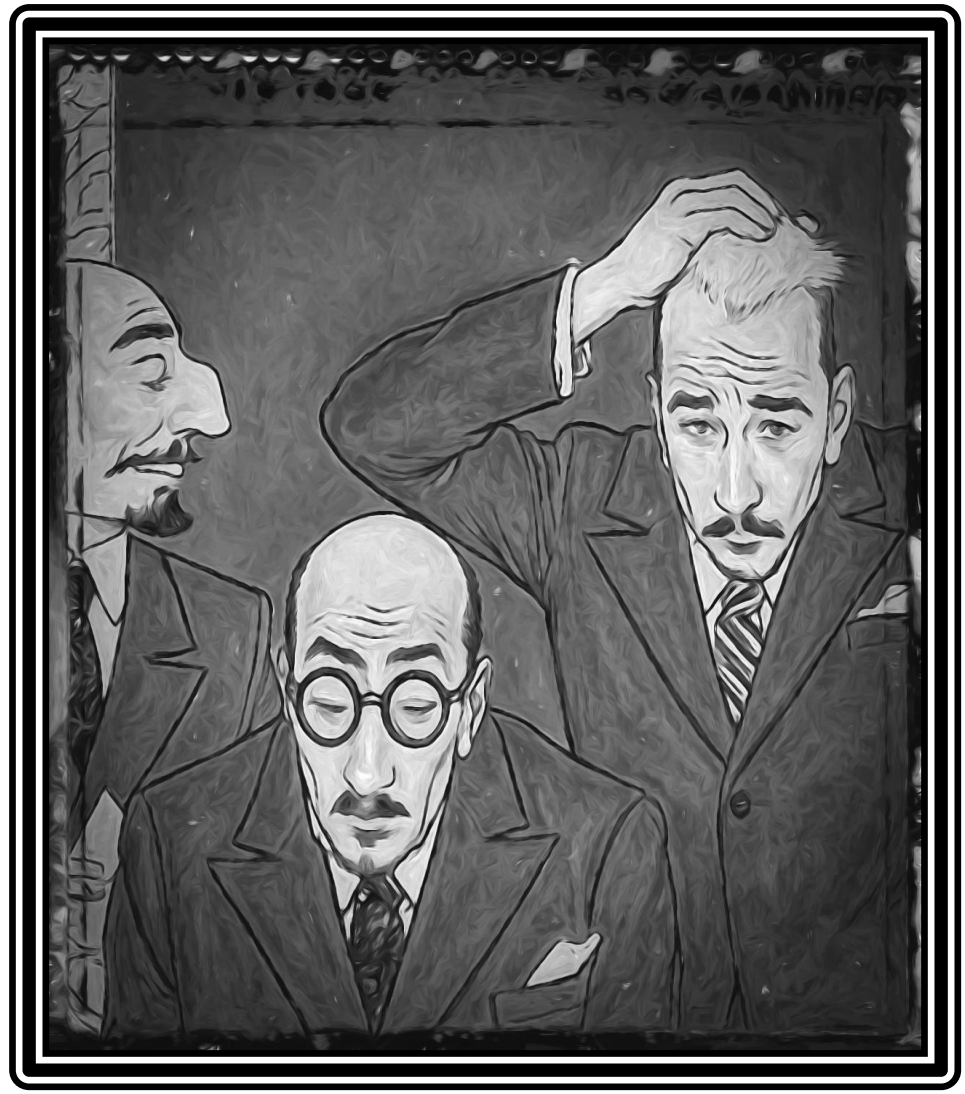

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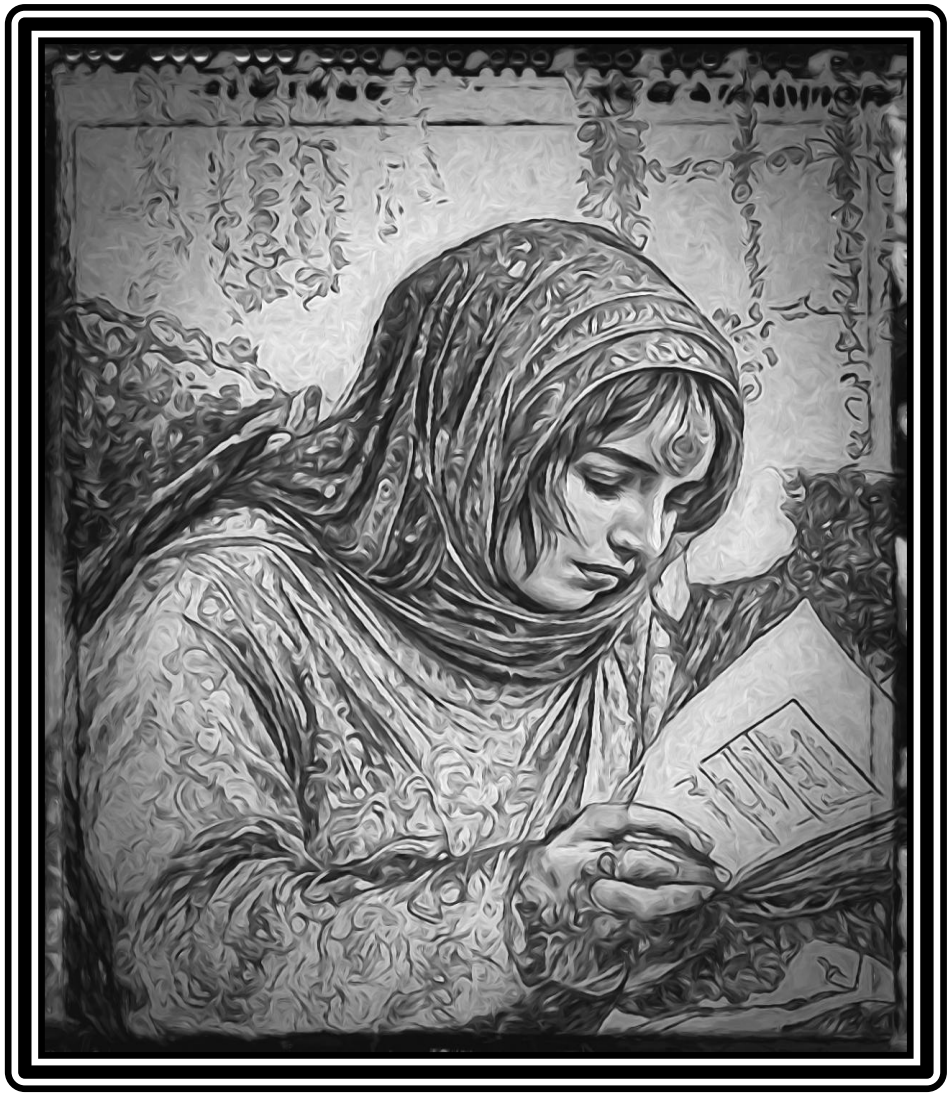

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showed a genuine understanding of my situation. He took the time to explain the circumstances surrounding my attempt to cross the border, ultimately guiding me to realize the futility of pursuing further efforts.

With a calm demeanor, he informed me that my name appeared on a specific list, which piqued my curiosity. When I pressed for more details, asking, “What list?”

He simply shook his head,

indicating that it was just the list, leaving me with a sense of confusion and concern. His kindness in handling the situation, despite the disappointing news, made the experience somewhat more bearable, as he navigated the delicate balance between authority and empathy.
Despite my awareness that I was testing both my luck and the young officer's patience, I felt compelled to press on with my inquiry.

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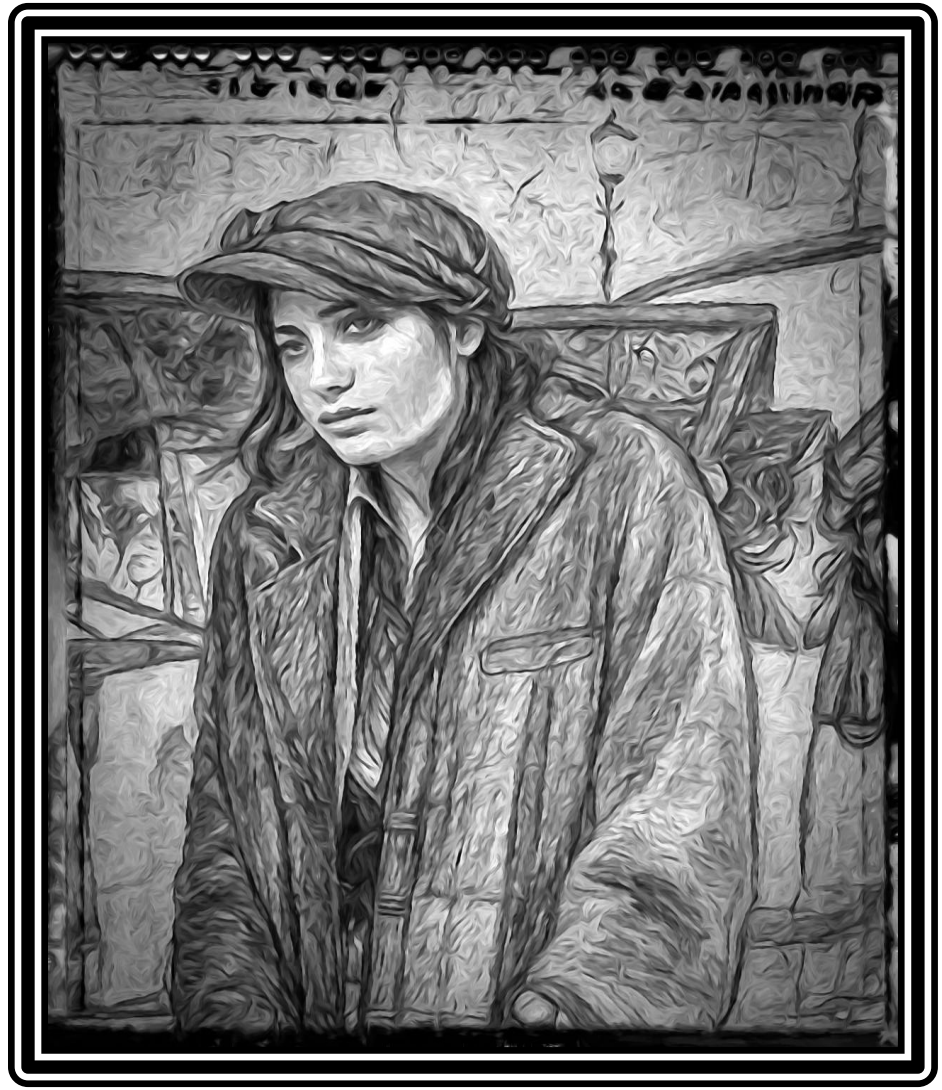

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"Why am I on the list?" I asked, my voice tinged with a mixture of curiosity and defiance.
The officer responded with a nonchalant shrug, shifting his weight to his right leg as he leaned in closer, lowering his voice to a near whisper.
"Mosier, it would be wiser for you to abandon this pursuit and return to the German side of the border."
His words hung in the air, heavy with implication, suggesting that my continued questioning could

lead to consequences I was not prepared to face.
The tension between us was palpable, a delicate balance of authority and resistance, as I grappled with the reality of my situation and the uncertain path that lay ahead.
In the spirit of transparency, I must admit that I was already aware of the reasons behind my name appearing on his list.
However, I clung to the hope that the rude clerk at the French Embassy in Havana was mistaken

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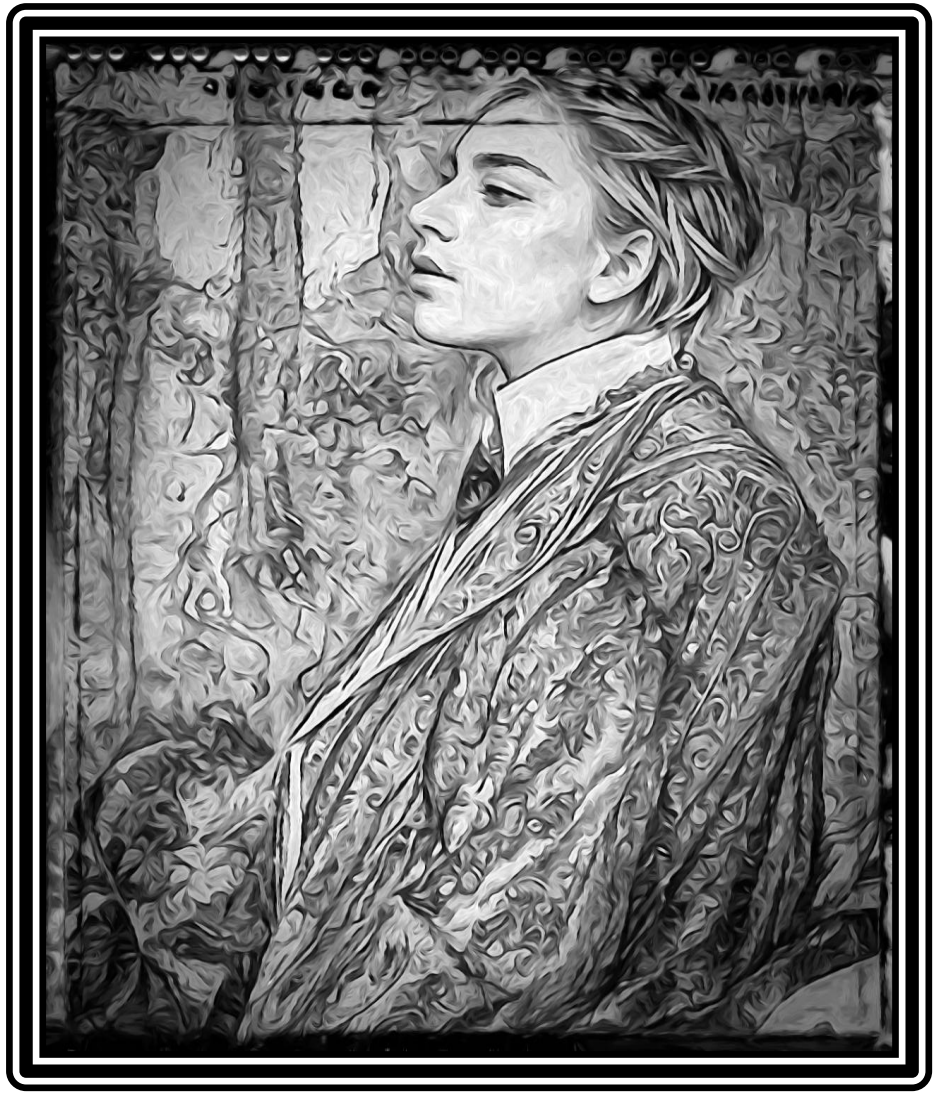

when he informed me that I had been blacklisted for what he inaccurately described as "treasonous" actions during the Great War.

Despite my attempts to plead my case, reason with him, and clarify that my group had negotiated a separate peace with the Germans before our return to Paris in 1917, my words seemed to fall on deaf ears.

I found myself exasperated, questioning how I, as an

American, could possibly be accused of treason against France.
The absurdity of the situation weighed heavily on me, as I grappled with the implications of such a label and the misunderstandings that had led to my current predicament.
The conversation, as you might expect, did not conclude on a positive note.
Fortunately, Cuba's lack of an extradition treaty with France played a crucial role in my escape from a dire situation.

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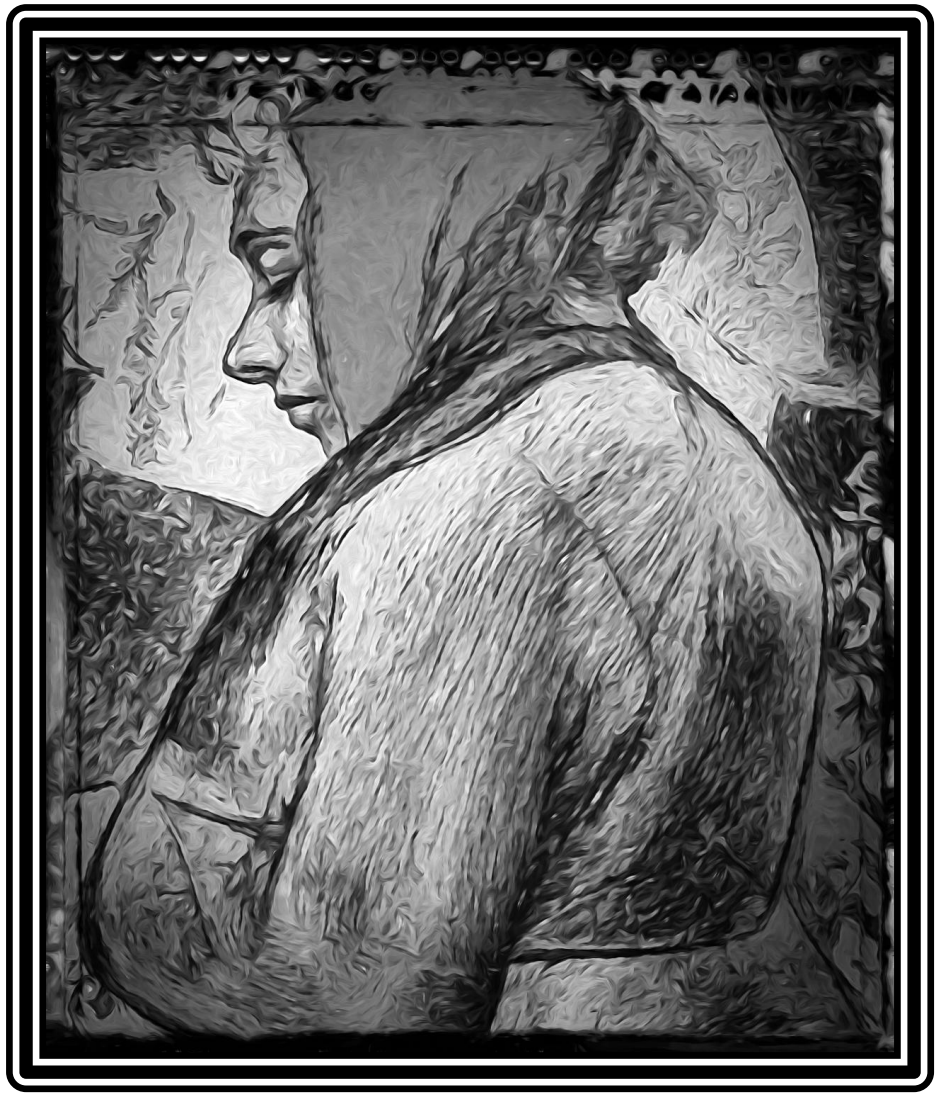

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This legal loophole meant that the embassy guards were unable to detain me and send me off on a slow boat to Devil's Island or any other grim destination reserved for traitors during that era.

The tension in the air was palpable, and the stakes were high; had the circumstances been different, I could have easily found myself facing a fate that many feared.

Instead, I was left to navigate the aftermath of that fraught

exchange, acutely aware of how close I had come to a perilous end.

I felt a wave of disappointment wash over me, yet I recognized that I had already tested the limits of this officer's patience. His counsel resonated with me, particularly as he seemed to grapple with the weighty responsibility of addressing a genuine traitor to the French Republic.

With a heavy heart, I turned back toward the German side of the

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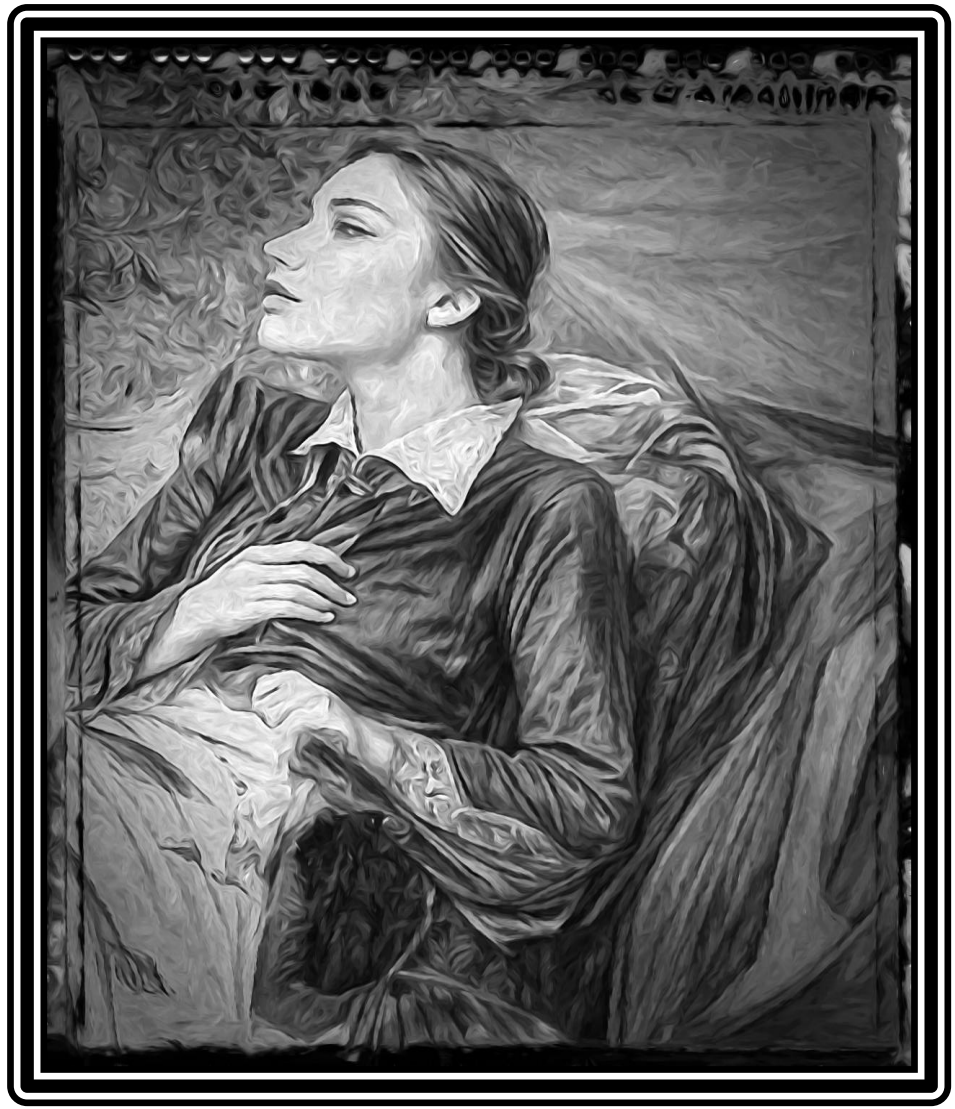

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border, grappling with my sense of letdown but also feeling a sense of relief that I was not facing the indignity of being shackled in leg irons or confined within the stark walls of an immigration holding cell.
The encounter had been tense, and while I had hoped for a different outcome, I was grateful to have avoided a far worse fate.
Re-entering Germany proved to be a far more challenging endeavor than I had anticipated.
The cheerful border guards I

fondly remembered from my earlier travels, long before the onset of the Great War, were now a distant memory.
In those more carefree times, the guards greeted travelers with warm smiles and friendly banter, often appointed to their positions through family connections or after paying a modest fee.
Their jovial demeanor made the crossing feel less like a bureaucratic hurdle and more like a welcoming gateway.

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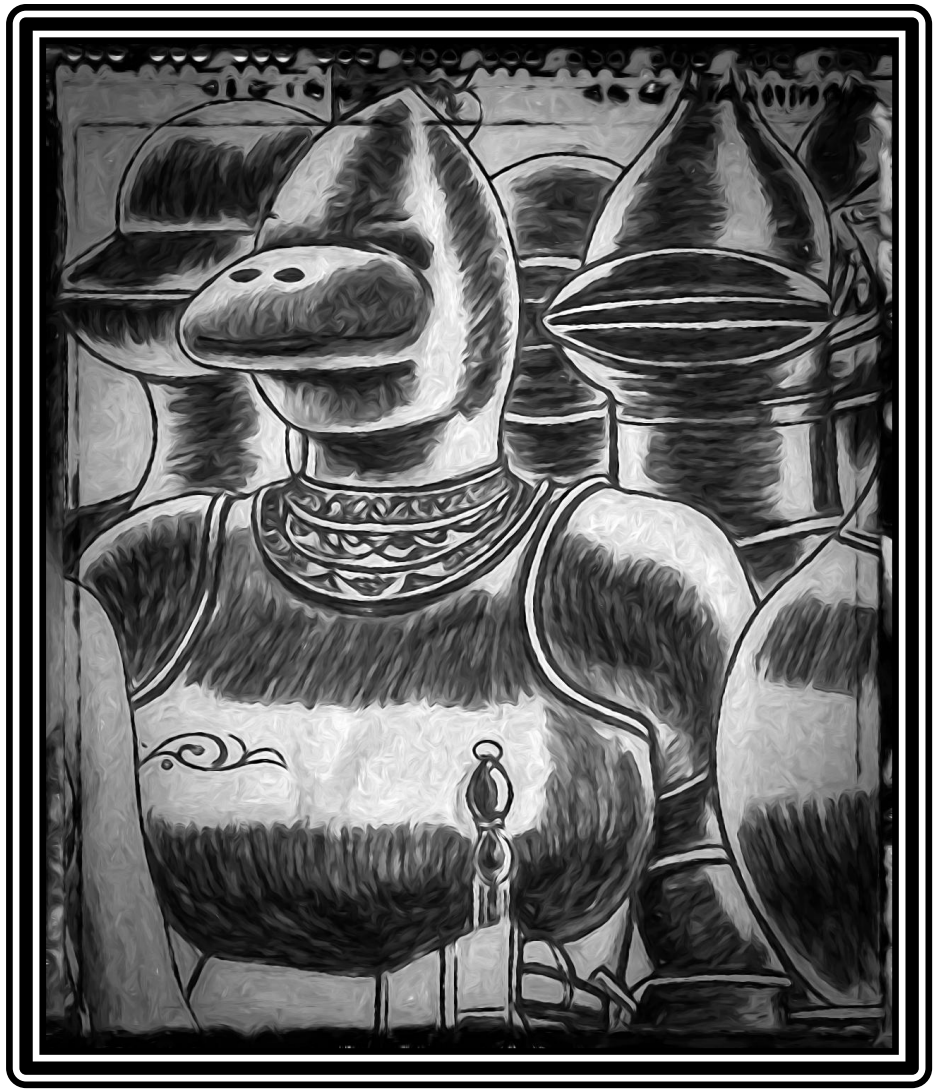

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However, as I approached the border this time, I was met with a starkly different atmosphere—one marked by tension and formality, where the once amiable interactions had been replaced by a sense of suspicion and scrutiny.

The transformation was palpable, reflecting the profound changes that had swept through the region, leaving behind echoes of a more innocent past. It was clear to me that the world had transformed significantly

since 1914, and I was acutely aware that the cheerful border guards of yesteryear had either retired or passed away.
However, I was unprepared for the reality that awaited me: a new generation of border officials comprised of small-minded, aggressive Nazi SA thugs, genuine criminals, and an unyielding border guard with whom I had to navigate my interactions.
This shift in personnel not only altered the atmosphere at the

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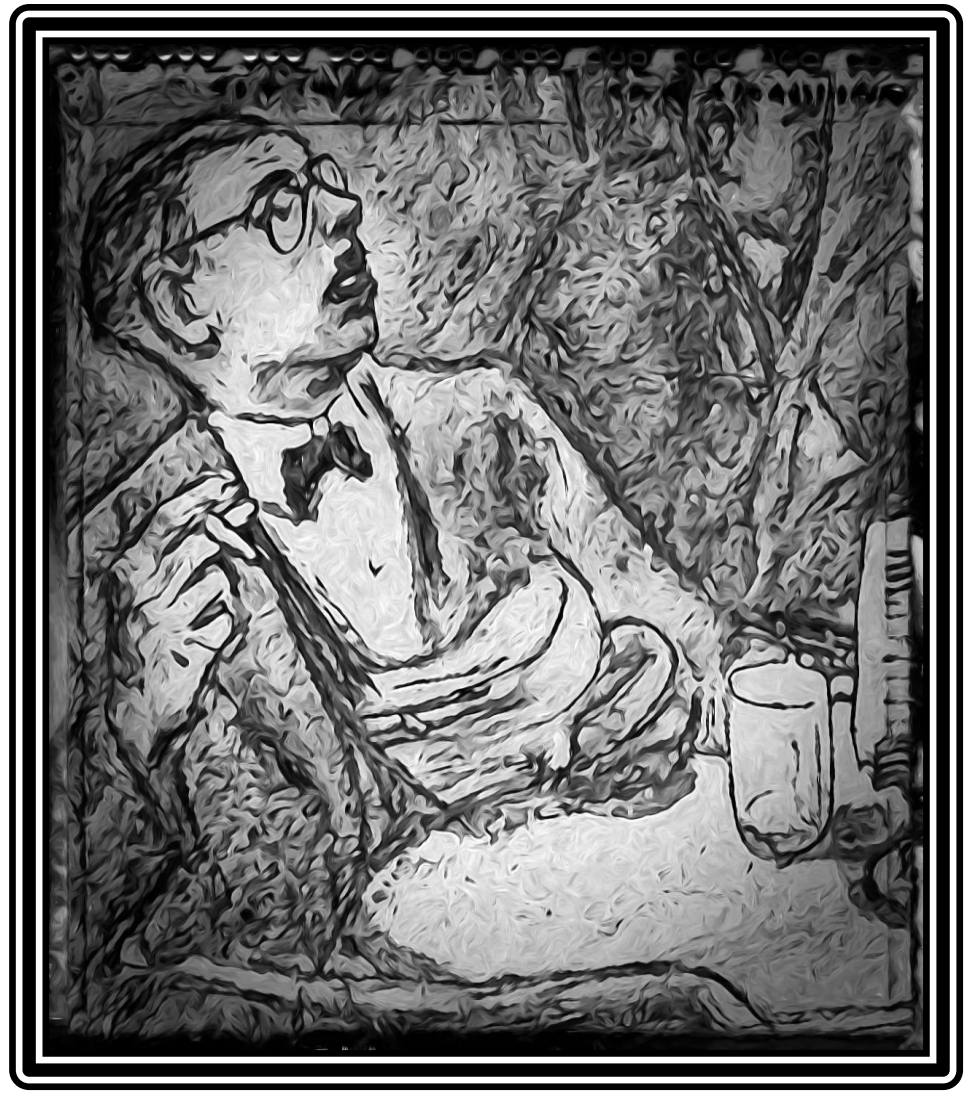

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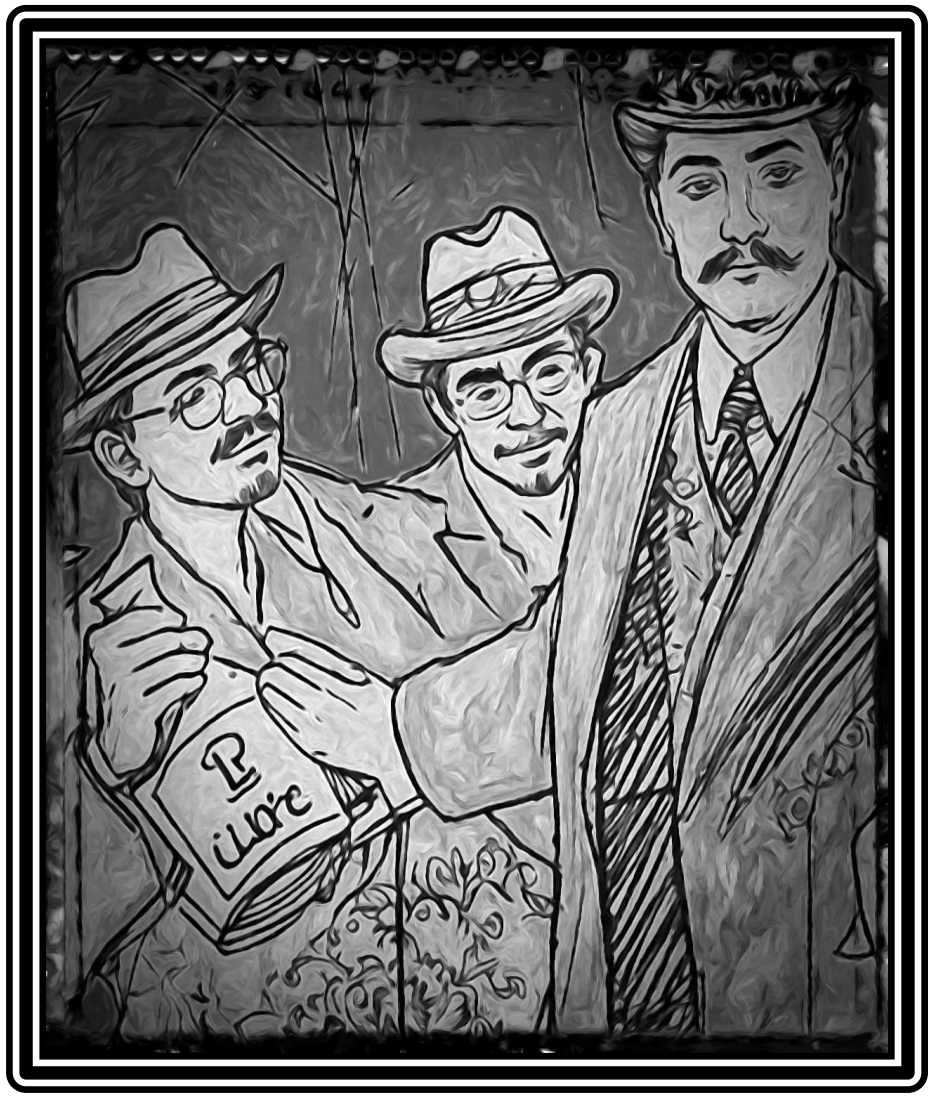

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border but also introduced a level of hostility and intimidation that was starkly different from the amiable encounters of the past.

The once friendly exchanges had been replaced by a tense and confrontational environment, where the spirit of camaraderie had been supplanted by a culture of fear and aggression, leaving me to grapple with the unsettling dynamics of this new reality.

Navigating border crossings can

often be a tedious and exasperating experience, particularly for those unfamiliar with the nuances of the process. However, seasoned travelers have discovered a valuable insider tip: when it comes to processing paperwork, it's advantageous to seek out the older guards.

These individuals, with their wealth of experience, tend to approach their responsibilities with a more relaxed demeanor, which can significantly ease the

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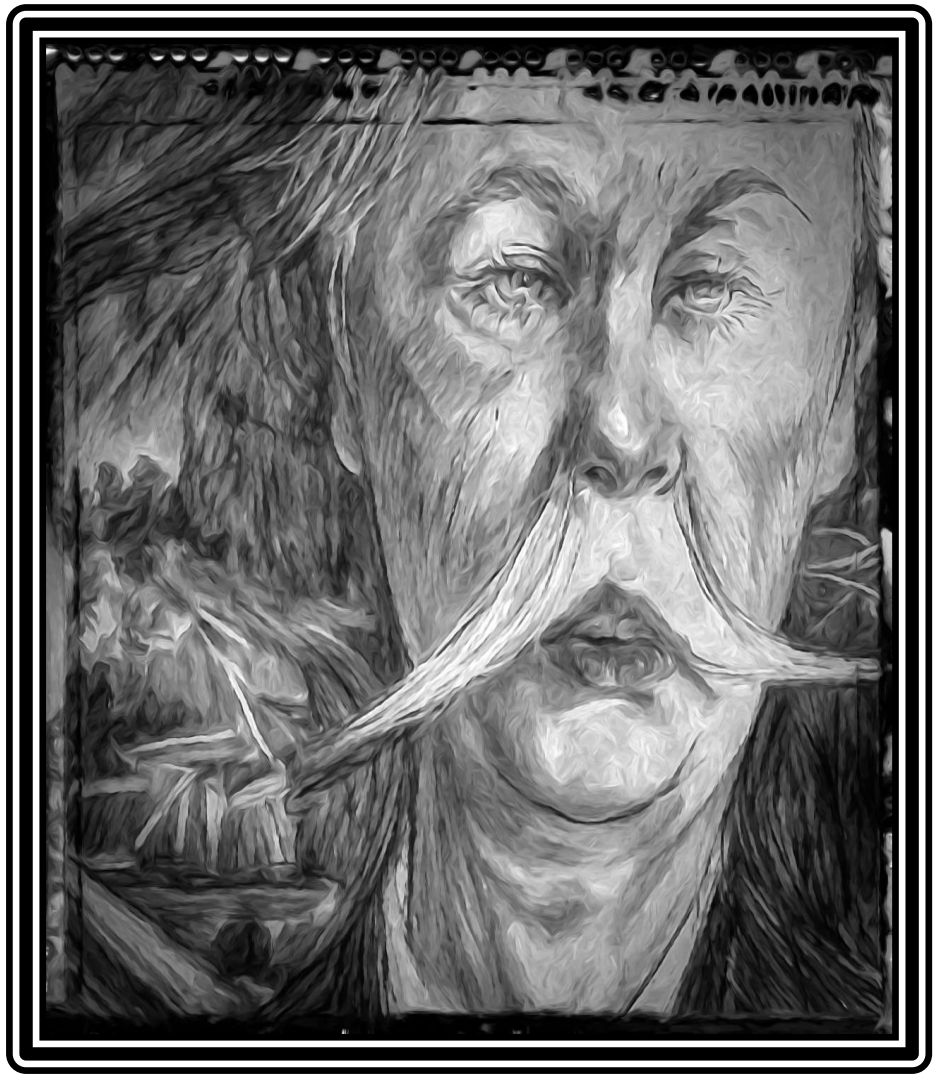

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tension of the situation.
Their familiarity with the procedures often translates into a more efficient and less stressful experience for those in line, making the journey across borders a little less daunting for those who know where to turn.
While I am not implying that they were outright corrupt, it is evident that their approach to their responsibilities lacked a certain realism.
These seasoned gentlemen exhibited a remarkable level of

patience and an openness to dialogue, often allowing for discussions about the validity of your questionable documentation.
Instead of dismissing your submissions outright, they were inclined to consider your arguments, providing an opportunity for negotiation rather than simply rejecting the paperwork.
This willingness to engage in conversation created an environment where individuals

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felt heard and valued, fostering a more collaborative atmosphere in the decision-making process. The new German regime was characterized by its rawness and a stark absence of the seasoned, rational figures of the past. This observation resonates deeply with my own experience when I found myself under the scrutiny of a brutal individual who took immense pride in his ascent from being an unemployed petty criminal to a member of Hitler's SA.

He was eager to flaunt his past, attributing his recent promotion to the Border Guards to the lessons learned during his tumultuous rise through the ranks.
His demeanor was a vivid illustration of the regime's shift away from reasoned governance, showcasing how power had fallen into the hands of those who thrived on intimidation and violence rather than wisdom and experience.
After spending the majority of

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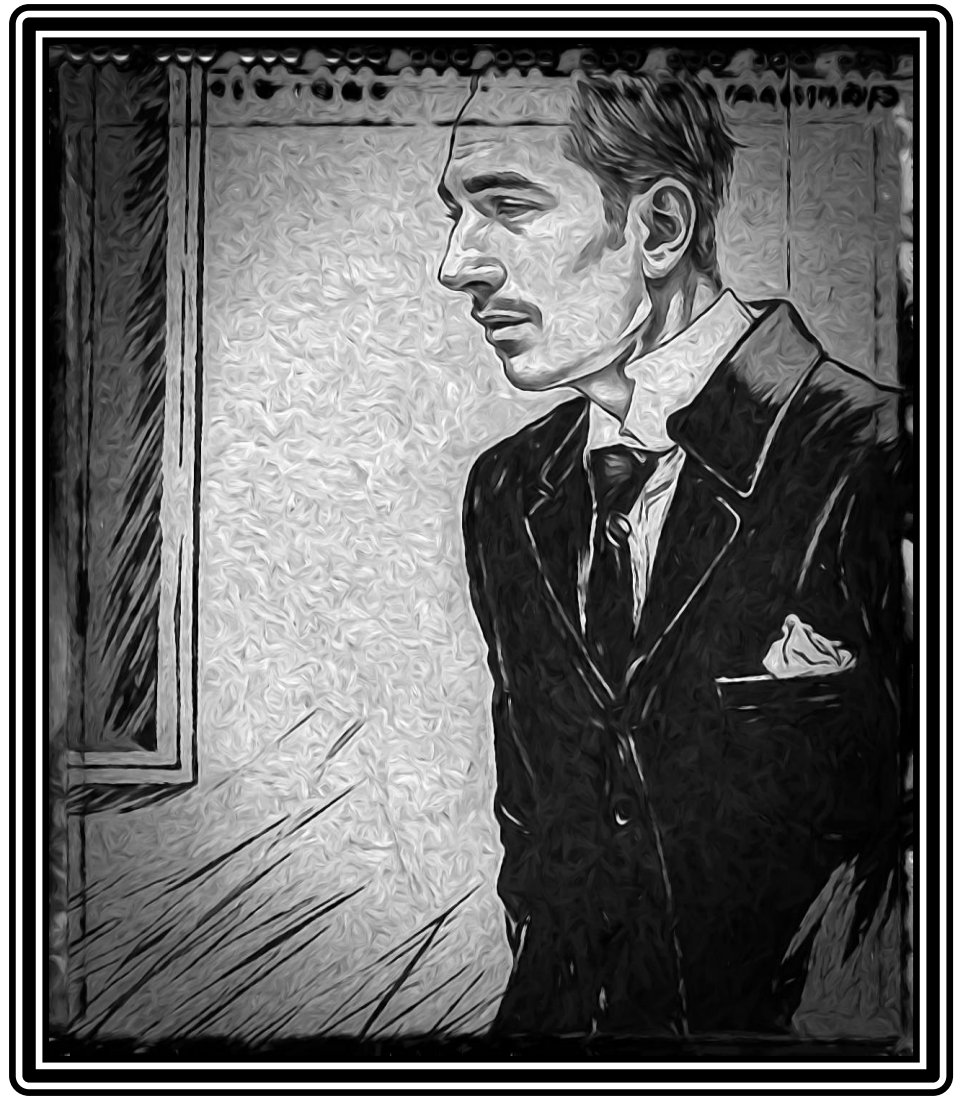

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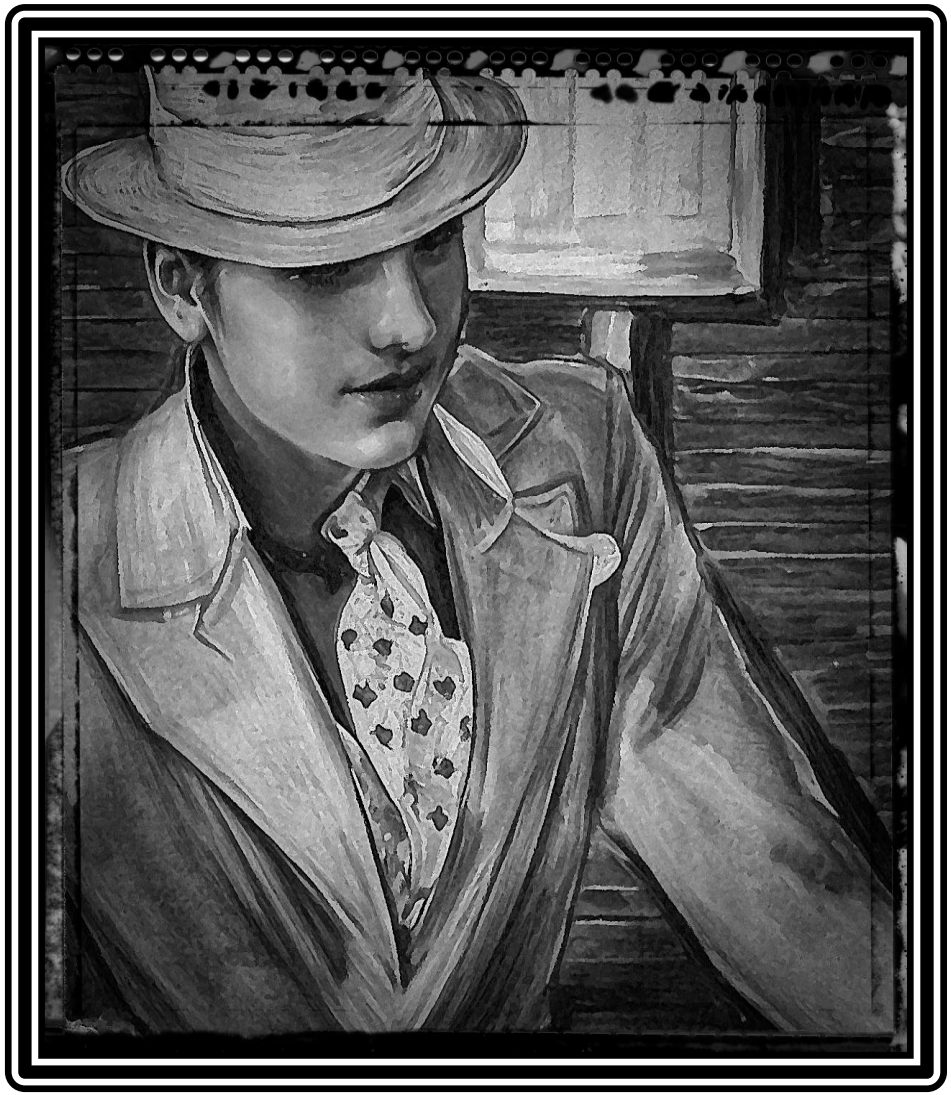

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the day trying to navigate the complexities of crossing into French territory, I found myself in a less than favorable mood. The encounter with a former SA gangster only added to my frustration, as his demeanor seemed to clash with my own.

From the very first exchange, it was clear that we were at odds, and the tension between us was palpable.

The combination of my exhaustion and his abrasive attitude created an atmosphere

ripe for conflict, making it difficult to engage in any meaningful conversation.
If I had another day to reflect on the situation, I might have approached it with a more measured response rather than adopting a confrontational attitude.
However, it was hard to overlook the fact that he was merely a young street punk, intoxicated by the newfound authority that came with his recent appointment.

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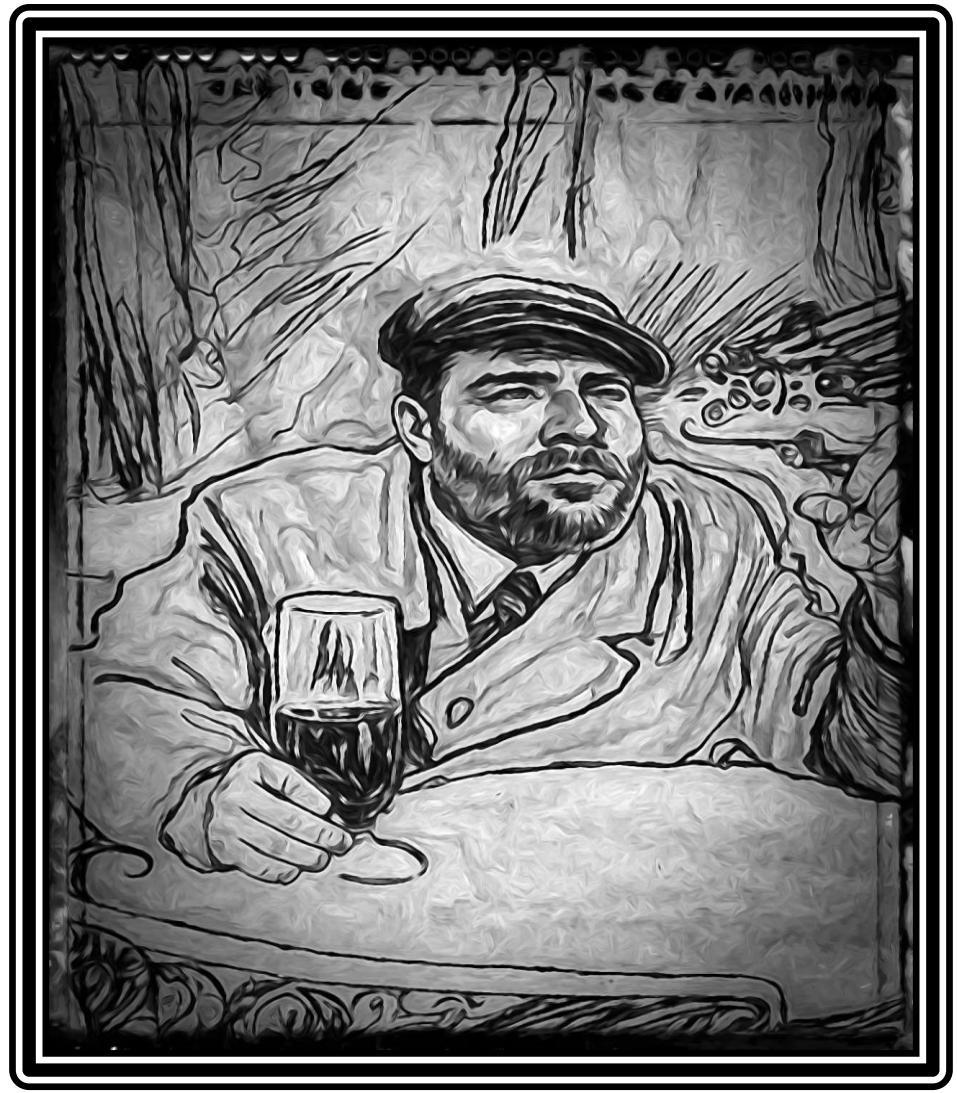

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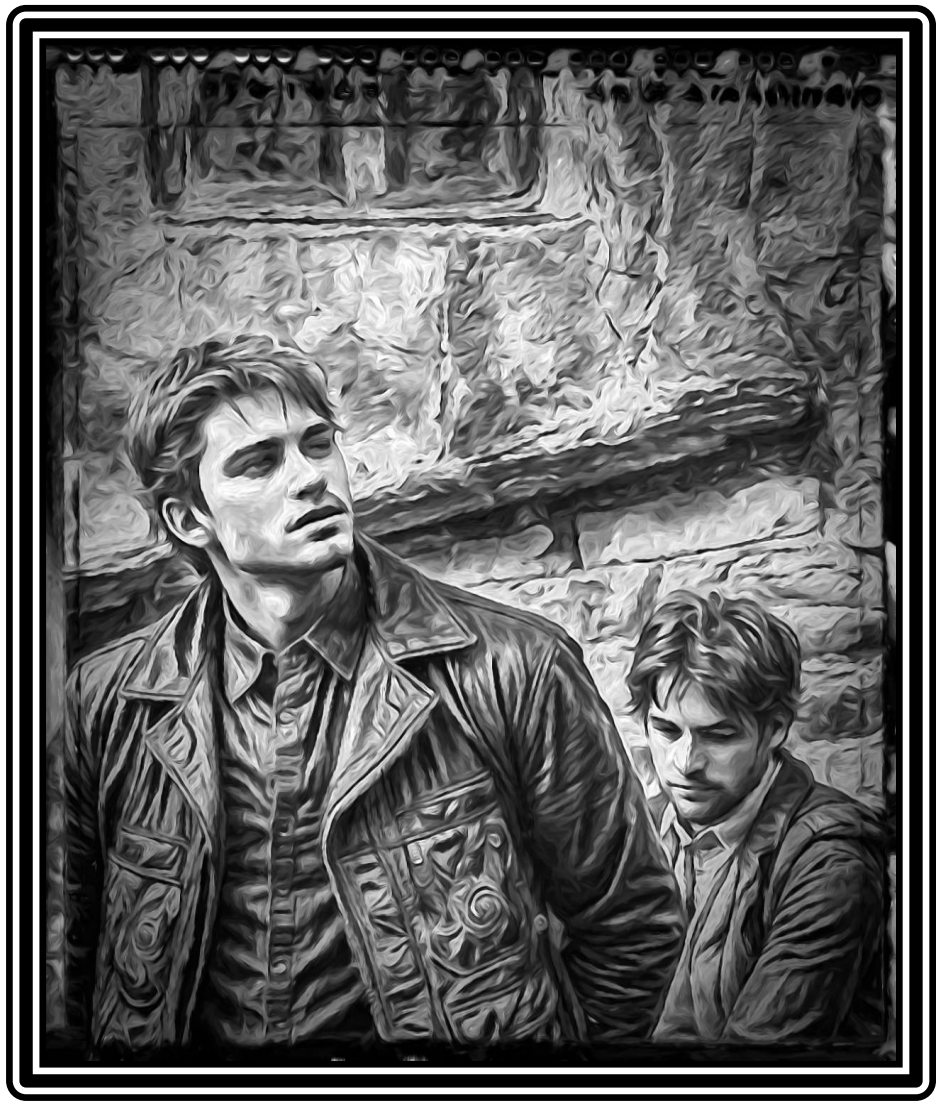

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To me, it felt less about the questions he posed and more about the arrogance he displayed, which I perceived as a personal affront.
At that moment, I resolved to bring him down a notch, determined to demonstrate my superior understanding of immigration issues and to remind him that his position did not automatically confer wisdom or expertise.
Despite recognizing that this was neither a wise nor a financially

sound battle to fight, I was acutely aware of my precarious situation.
Being barred from entering France and facing the possibility of being denied entry into Germany meant I could find myself trapped in this desolate no man's land for an indefinite period, perhaps even for the entirety of my journey.
Yet, in the face of such daunting prospects, I was resolute; I refused to yield to the provocations of a mere street thug.

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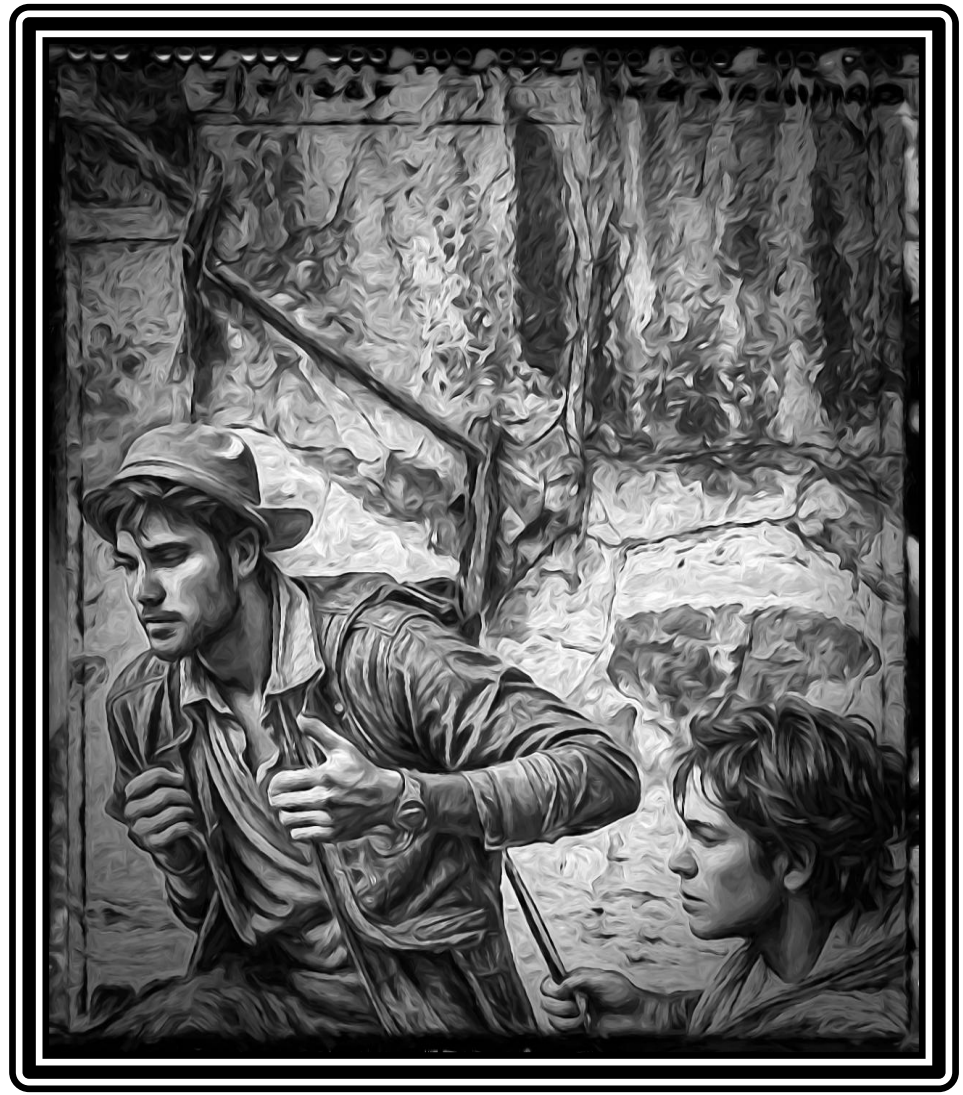

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My determination to stand my ground was fueled by a sense of pride and the conviction that I would not allow myself to be intimidated or pushed around, regardless of the potential consequences.

At long last, fortune smiled upon me, as the ruckus we had created caught the attention of the young gangster's supervisor. Without any unnecessary theatrics, he approached us, his demeanor calm yet authoritative.

He reached for my passport, his fingers deftly flipping it open as he began to scrutinize its contents.
The atmosphere shifted, a mix of tension and anticipation hanging in the air, as I wondered what his assessment would reveal.
Would this unexpected intervention lead to a resolution, or was it merely the beginning of another round of complications?
“American?” he asked.
I respectfully nodded in acknowledgment, adopting a

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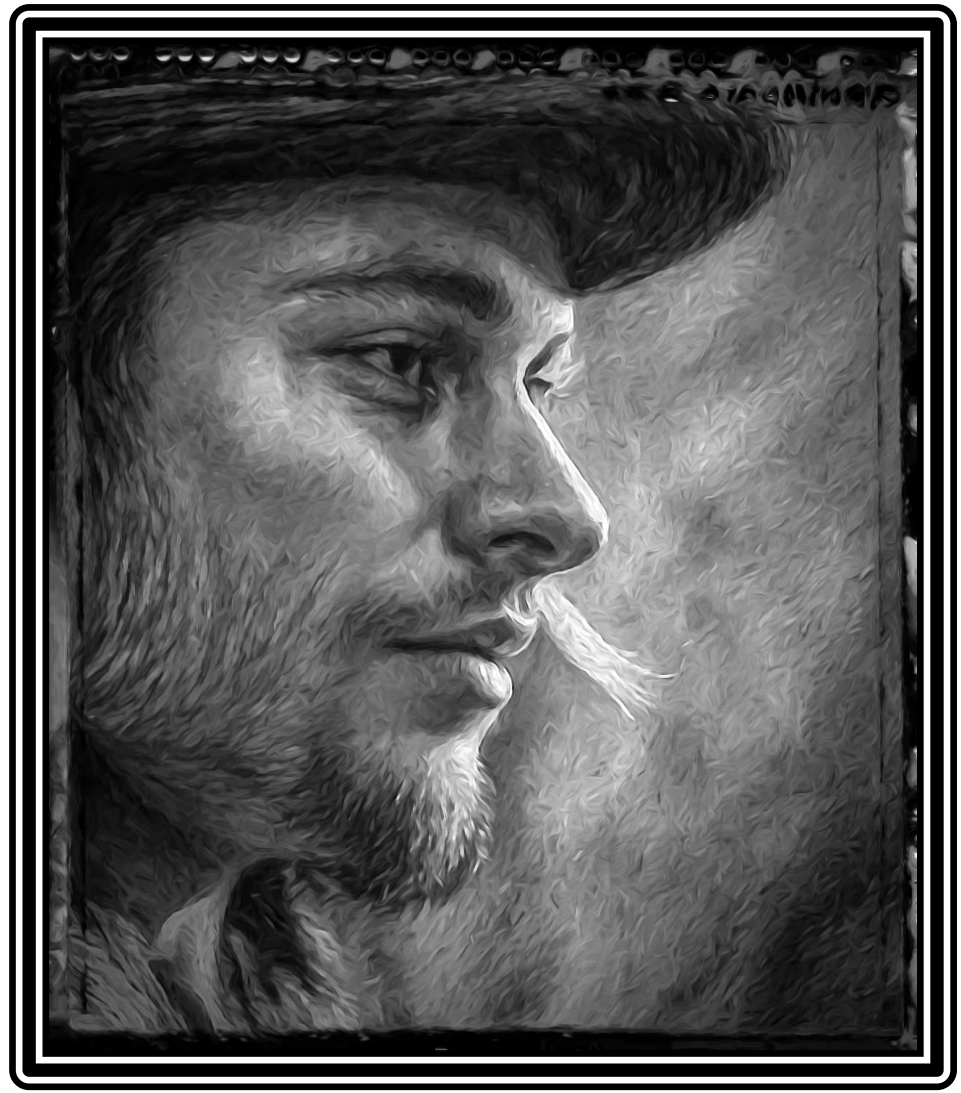

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more deferential tone when addressing my supervisor.
To visually convey my acceptance of his authority, I inclined my head at a proper downward angle, signaling my recognition of his position.
This subtle gesture was intended to demonstrate my willingness to engage constructively and to show that I valued his guidance and leadership in our professional relationship.
The supervisor leaned back in his chair, a thoughtful expression

crossing his face as he spoke. He mentioned that he had a cousin residing in Cleveland, a city known for its vibrant culture and rich history. With a hint of curiosity, he inquired whether the American might be familiar with this relative, suggesting a potential connection that could bridge their worlds.

The casual mention of family ties sparked a moment of intrigue, as the supervisor pondered the possibility of shared acquaintances and the stories

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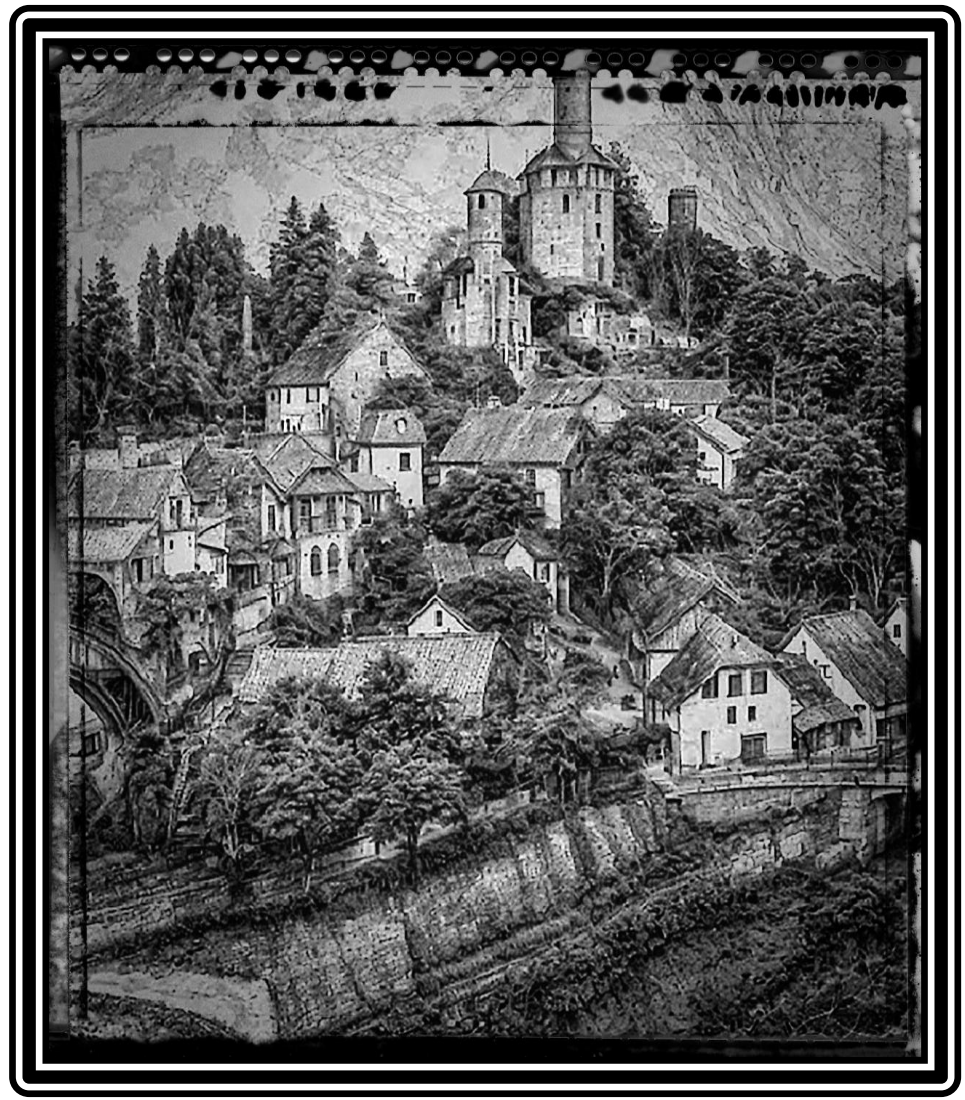

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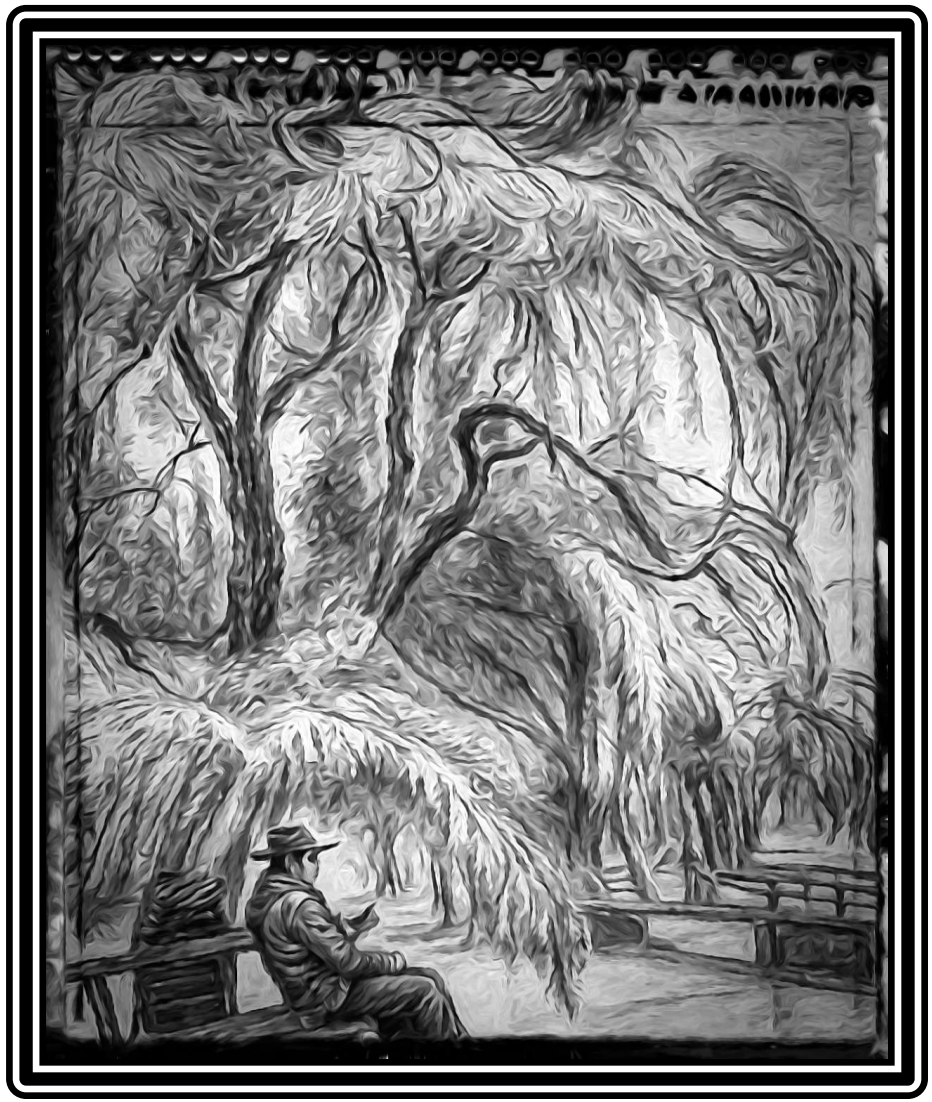

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that might unfold from such a connection.
I politely asked for the gentleman's name, subtly implying my familiarity with Cleveland.
I hinted that I had a personal connection to the city, perhaps even mentioning that I had family residing there.
This approach not only served to establish a rapport but also opened the door for a more engaging conversation about our shared ties to the area.

One effective strategy I picked up long ago, which often proves beneficial when interacting with officials who assert they have family members residing in the United States, is to allow them to speak at length about their relatives.

This technique involves engaging in a largely one-sided dialogue where you provide minimal input, primarily responding with the occasional nod or brief acknowledgment.

By doing so, you not only give

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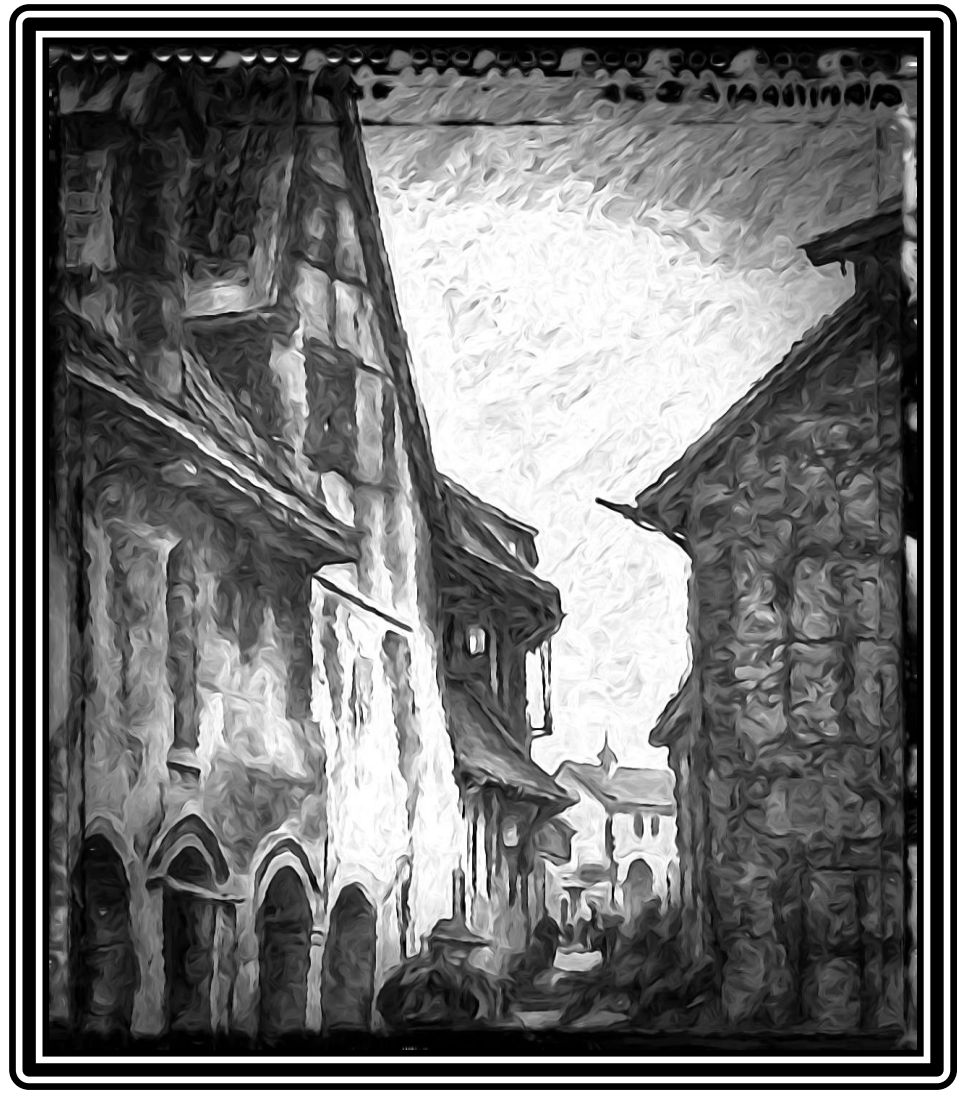

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them the space to express themselves but also gather valuable insights into their situation and motivations.
This approach can help you navigate the conversation more smoothly, as it places the focus on them while you remain an attentive listener, subtly guiding the interaction without revealing too much of your own perspective.
A former physiology major from New York University, who is also the niece of José Martí, the

Apostle of Cuban Independence, once shared an intriguing insight with me during our time in Paris in mid-1917.
She emphasized that people have a natural inclination to discuss their own lives and experiences. By encouraging them to speak freely and without interruption, you create an environment where they feel increasingly at ease.
As the conversation progresses, she noted, individuals often find themselves opening up more,

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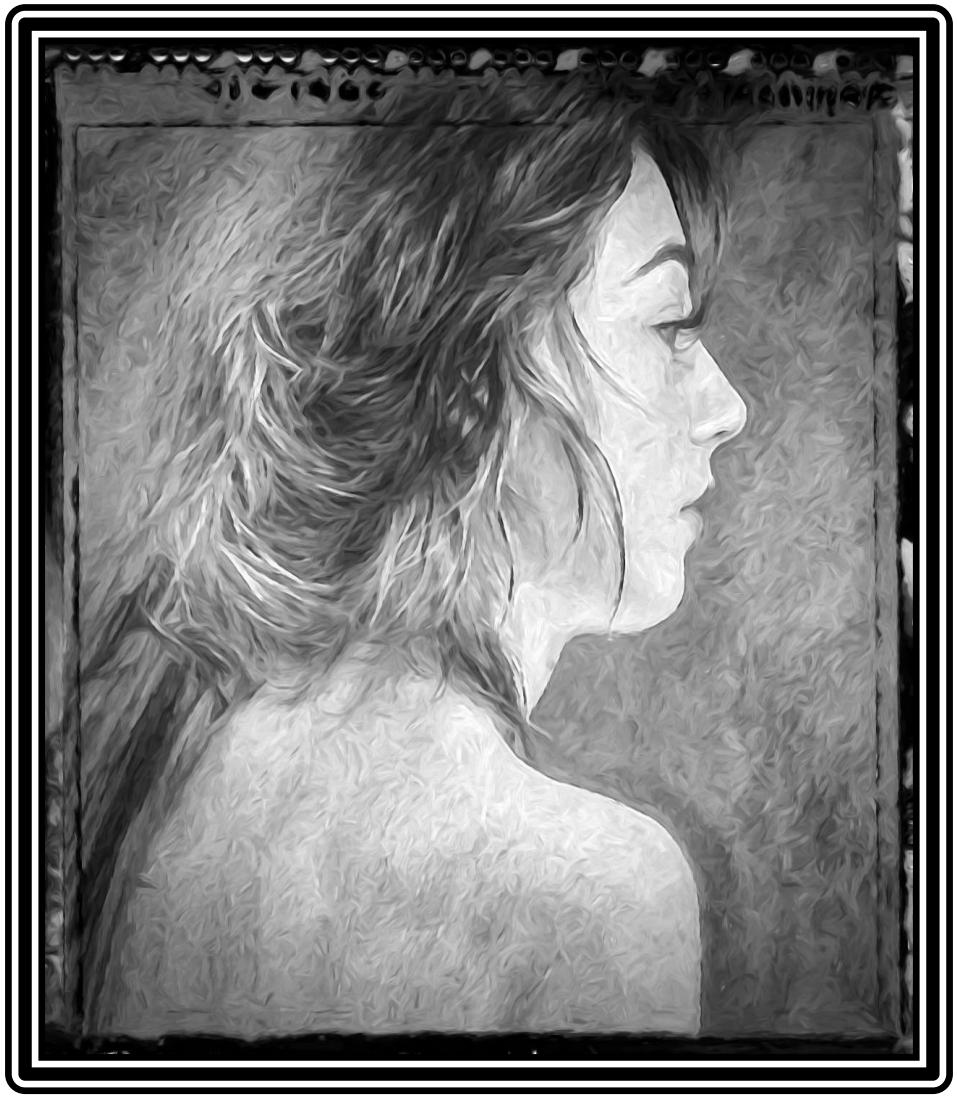

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leading to a deeper connection. Eventually, this process can foster a sense of camaraderie, allowing for the development of a genuine friendship.

Her observations highlighted the power of listening and the importance of creating a space where others feel valued and understood.

During our lengthy conversation, he shared his aspiration to visit America one day.

I wholeheartedly encouraged him to pursue that dream,

highlighting the welcoming atmosphere he would encounter upon his arrival.
I explained that the United States is home to a vibrant community of German expatriates, which would not only provide him with a sense of familiarity but also open doors to new friendships and opportunities.
The prospect of immersing oneself in a diverse culture while connecting with fellow Germans made the idea of traveling to America even more appealing.

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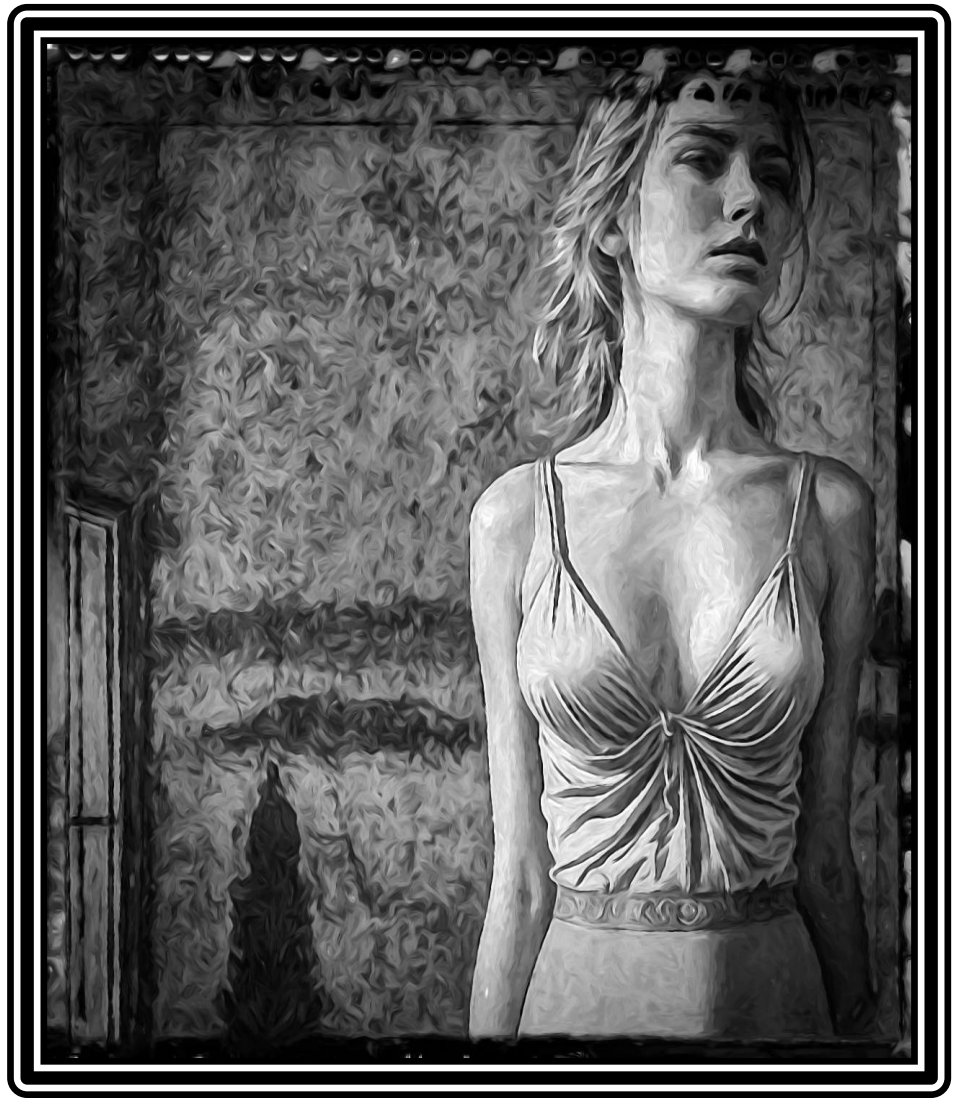

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It's important to set aside any moral considerations regarding this trick, especially since I haven't set foot in America since my departure in 1913, when I aspired to become the next great American artist by leaving for Europe.

To be candid, delving into a fruitless discussion about moral ethics would only lead us astray, wandering through a dense thicket of irrelevant arguments that distract from the core message I aim to convey.

If we allow ourselves to become entangled in this debate, we risk overlooking the essential insights I wish to share about Hobo Traveling in the mid-20th Century.
This topic deserves our full attention, as it encapsulates a unique and transformative experience that shaped the lives of many during that era.
Within an hour of our conversation, and despite the vehement protests from his former SA youth employees, he

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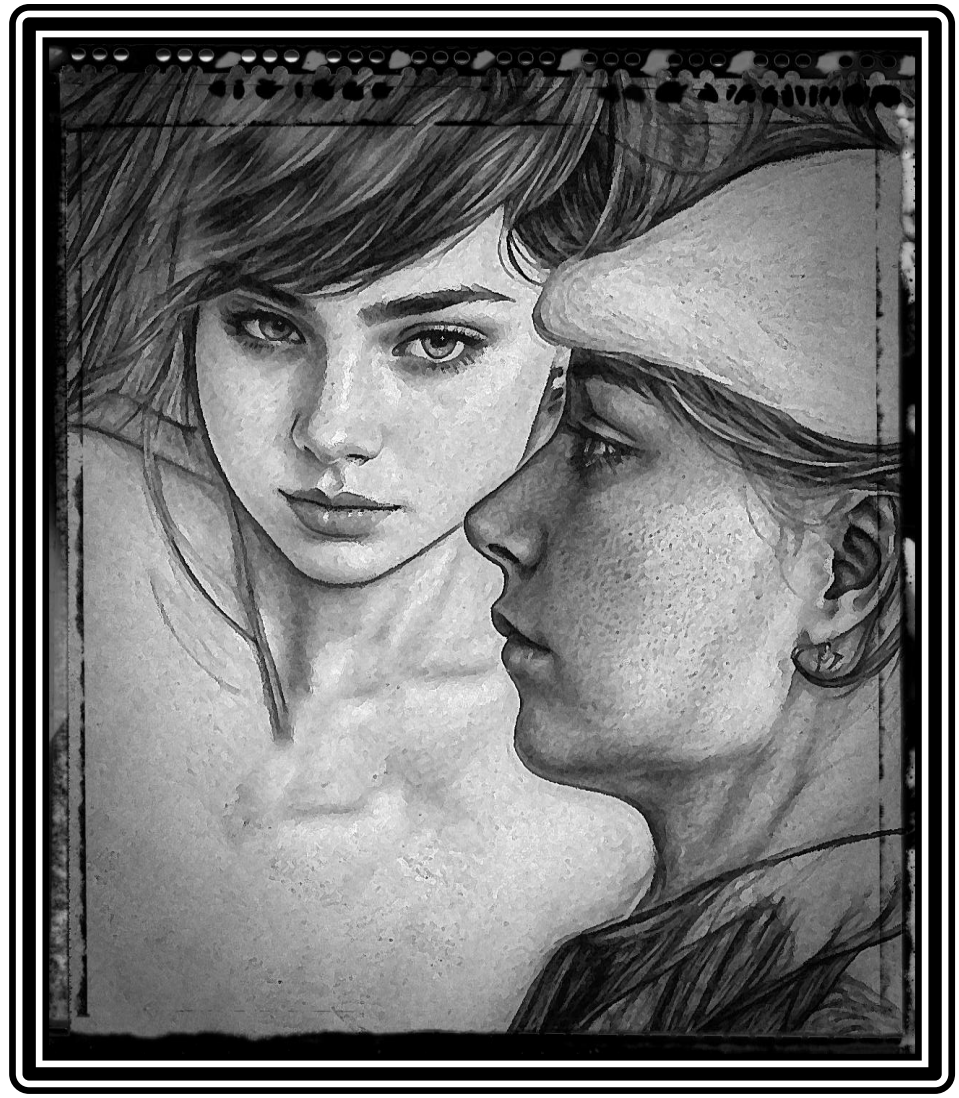

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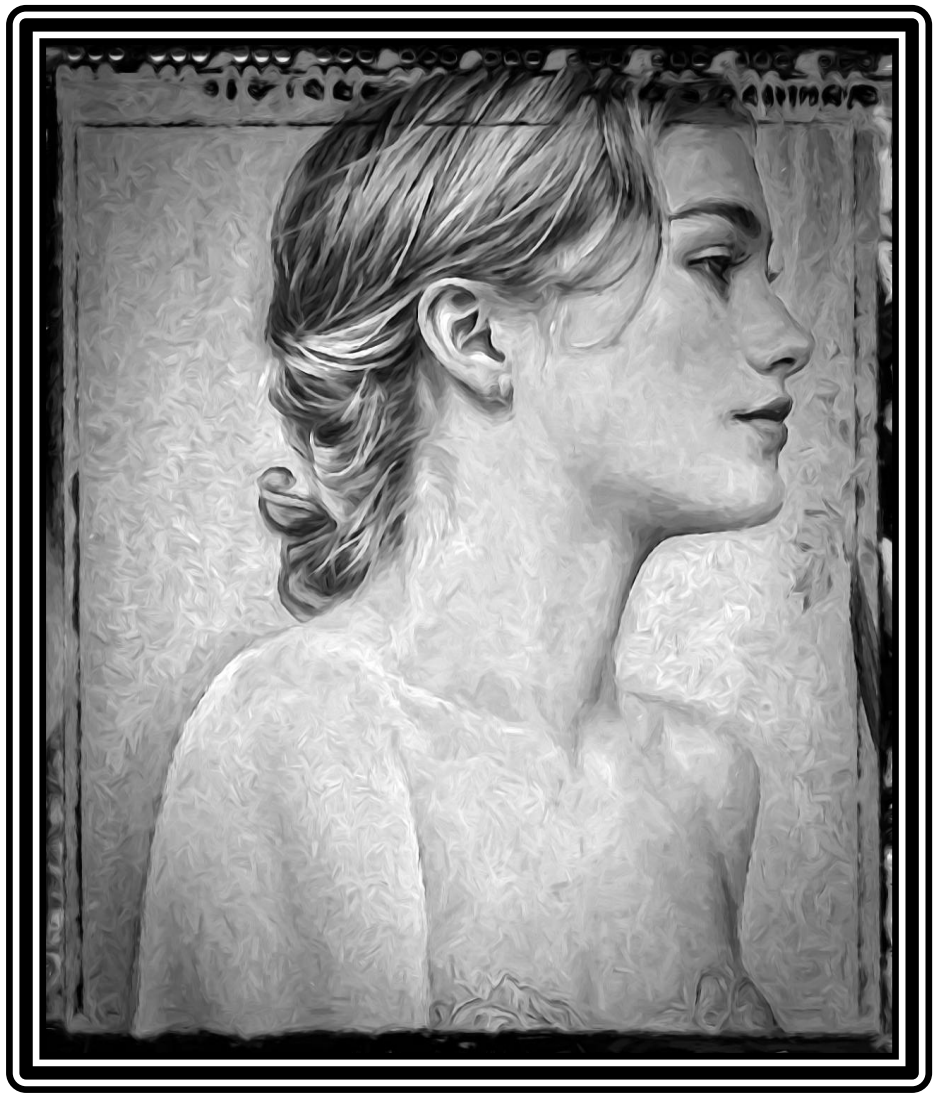

affixed a 90-day transit visa to my passport.
Soon after, I found myself ensconced in the business suite of a no-star hotel, reflecting on the bittersweet turn of events. My thoughts drifted back to Paris, where I had promised Claudie that I would return to visit her younger sister, Miss Minnie, my girlfriend from 1917. The weight of that unfulfilled promise hung heavily on me, especially as we had departed

Madrid in haste, fleeing the rumors of advancing forces of Franco.
The urgency of our escape had overshadowed my intentions, leaving me to ponder the missed opportunity to reconnect with someone who had once held a significant place in my heart.
The old man once remarked, "It is what it is," a phrase I had never fully grasped until now.
Reflecting on his words, I realize they encapsulate a profound truth about our existence: we

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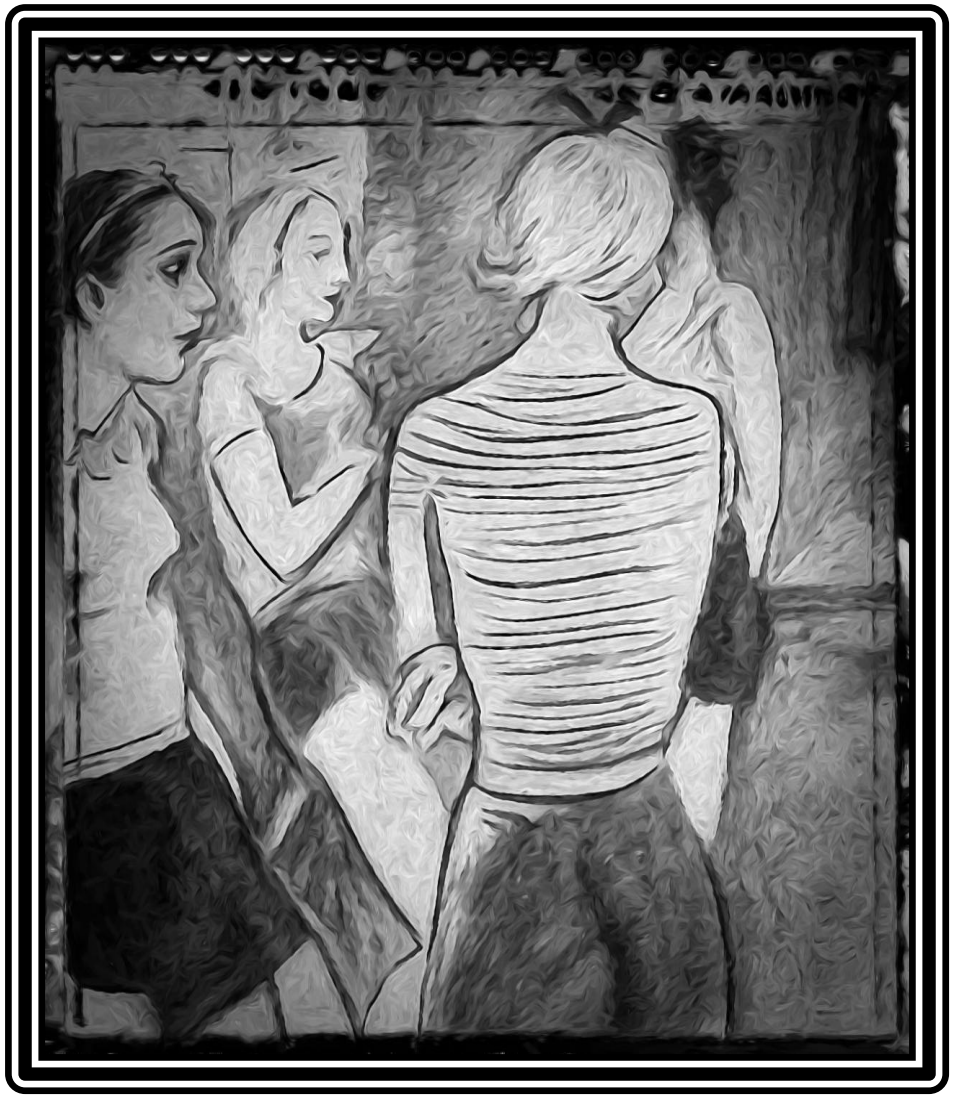
LET GO OF WHAT CANNOT BE CONTROLLED



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often find ourselves as mere pawns in a grand narrative, playing roles that were scripted long before we arrived on the scene.

In this intricate play of life, our contributions may seem insignificant, as if we were never meant to alter the course of the story.

This perspective sheds light on the inevitability of certain events and the limitations of our agency, suggesting that perhaps the old man was hinting at a

deeper acceptance of our circumstances, urging us to recognize the boundaries of our influence in a world that often feels predetermined.

Through my journeys to the lesser-known corners of the world, I have come to understand a profound truth: life unfolds in ways that often defy our personal desires and the futile attempts we make to impose our will upon it.

In these quiet backwaters, I have witnessed how events transpire

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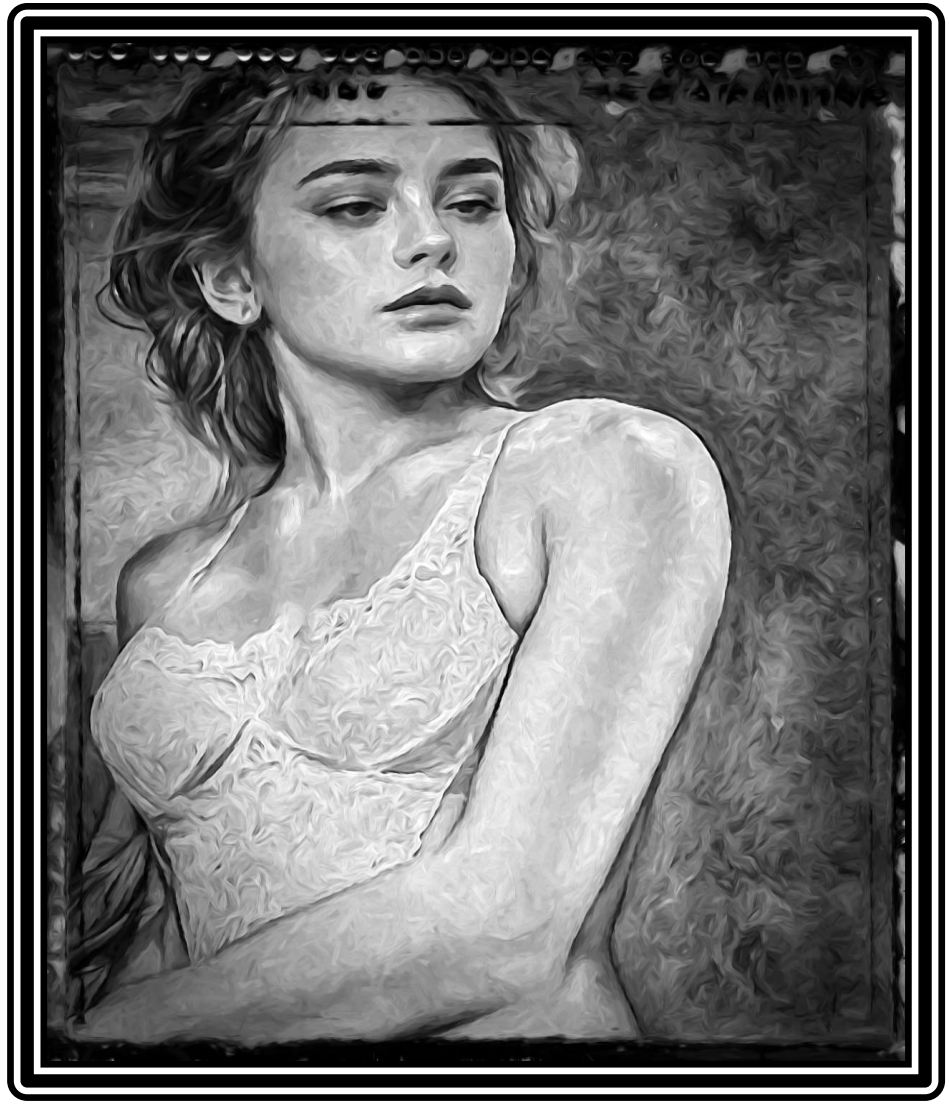

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independently of our hopes and aspirations, reminding me of the wisdom of the old man who chooses to let go of what cannot be controlled.

Instead of clinging to disappointment or frustration, it is far more liberating to acknowledge the unpredictability of existence, accept it, and move forward with grace.

This perspective not only fosters resilience but also opens the door to new experiences and

opportunities that we might otherwise overlook in our quest for certainty.

The following morning, after enjoying a hearty breakfast and a restful night, I found myself grappling with a disheartening realization: my life savings had dwindled once again, leaving me with nothing but a handful of coins clinking in my pockets as I navigated the bustling streets of Saarbrucken's shopping district. The vibrant atmosphere around me was a stark contrast to my

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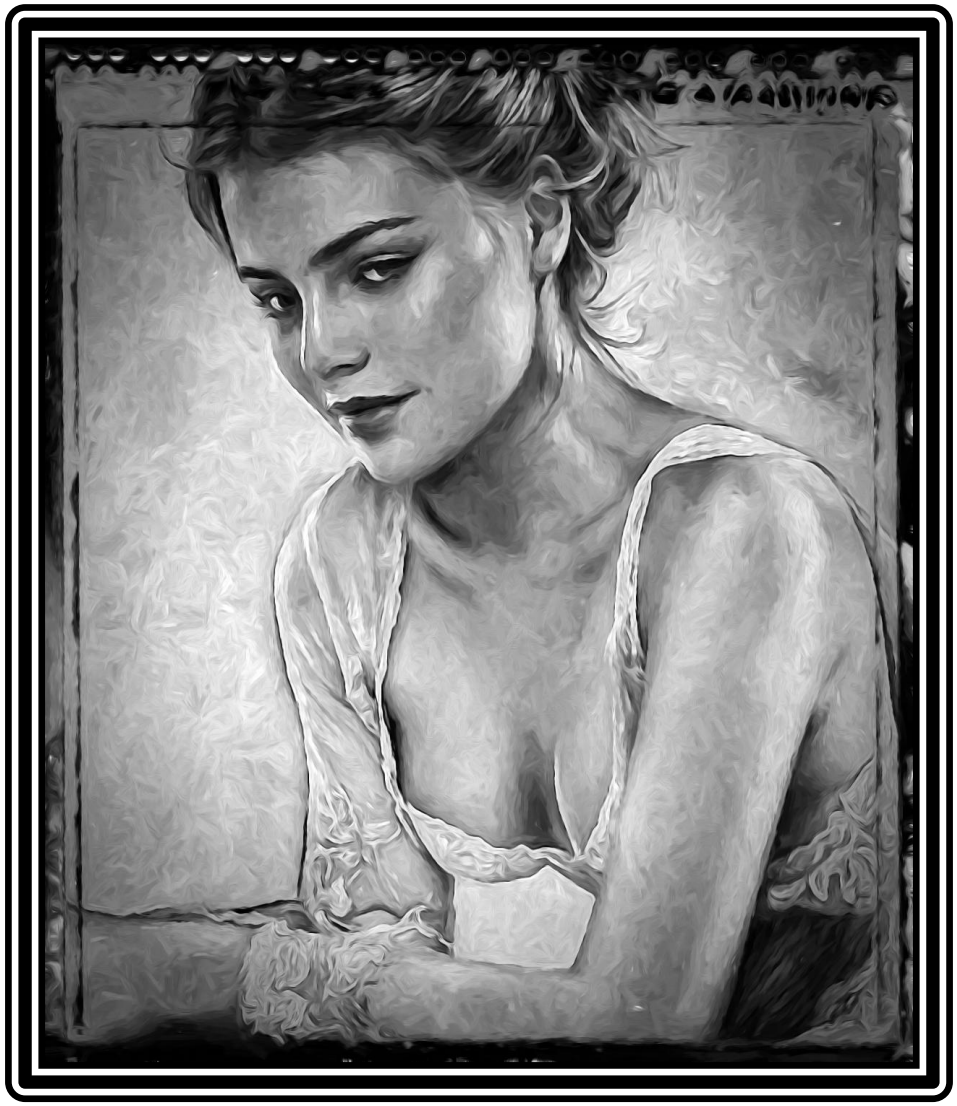

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financial predicament, and I felt an urgent need to devise a new scheme or find a temporary job to sustain myself until Seine and Claudie could arrive.

I clung to the hope that Seine's efforts to secure us promising opportunities in China would materialize, providing a brighter future just beyond the horizon.

Throughout the years, I have successfully transformed my foundational art education into a fulfilling side venture, where I create doodles, portraits, and

postcards at upscale gentlemen's clubs, earning a modest five francs for each piece.

This unique opportunity allows me to channel my creativity while engaging with a diverse clientele.

To enhance my craft, I allocate my remaining funds to a local art supply store, where I invest in high-quality paper and premium pencils, ensuring that my work stands out.

With my supplies in hand, I eagerly set out to make the

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rounds, ready to capture the essence of my surroundings and the characters I encounter, all while honing my artistic skills in this vibrant and dynamic environment.

As I wandered through the seemingly endless labyrinth of side streets in the Johanner Market, my search yielded little success.

The atmosphere was thick with tension, a byproduct of the recent plebiscite and the unsettling rumors circulating

among the locals.
One such rumor, shared by the hotel's doorman with a conspiratorial wink, suggested that the government's newfound focus on family values was merely a facade.
He hinted that the real reason behind the closure of many popular entertainment venues was tied to their ownership or management by Jewish individuals, particularly those who had thrived before the plebiscite.

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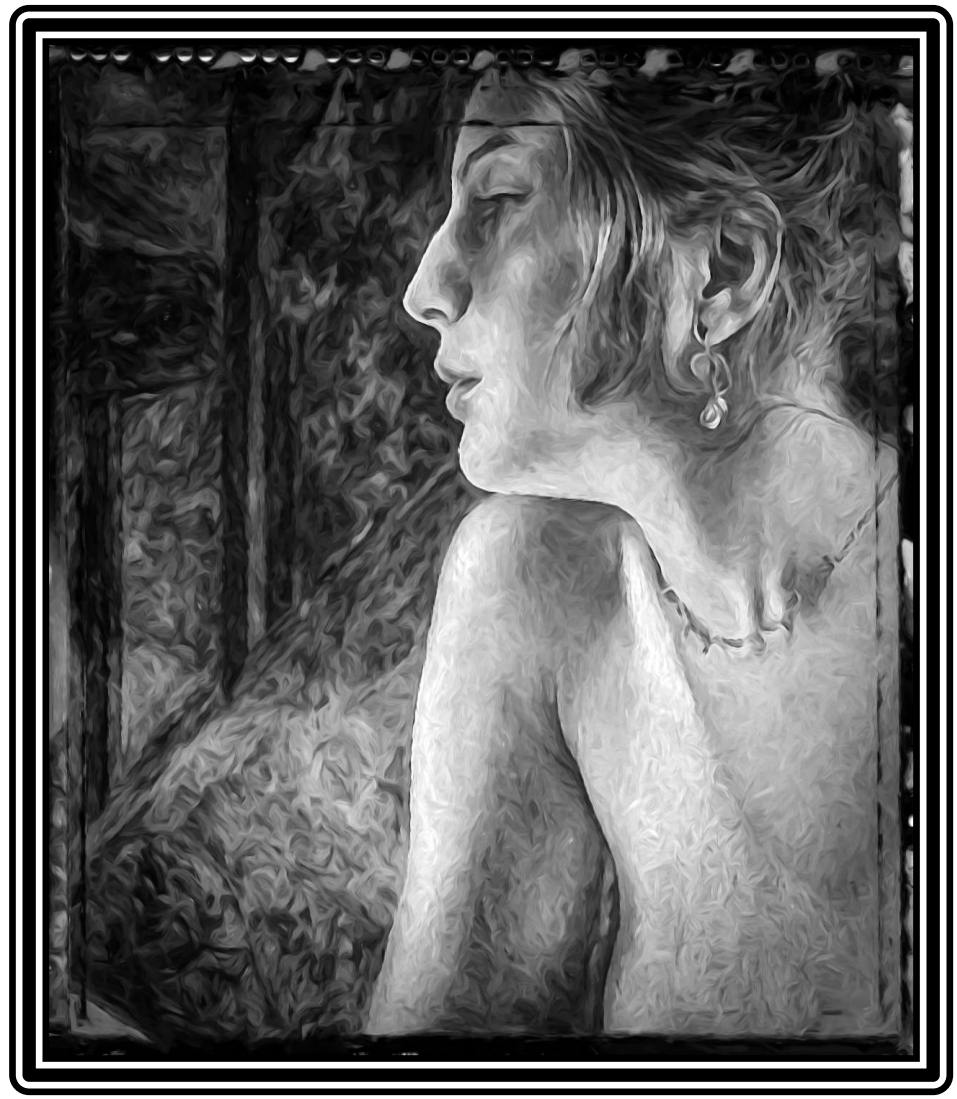

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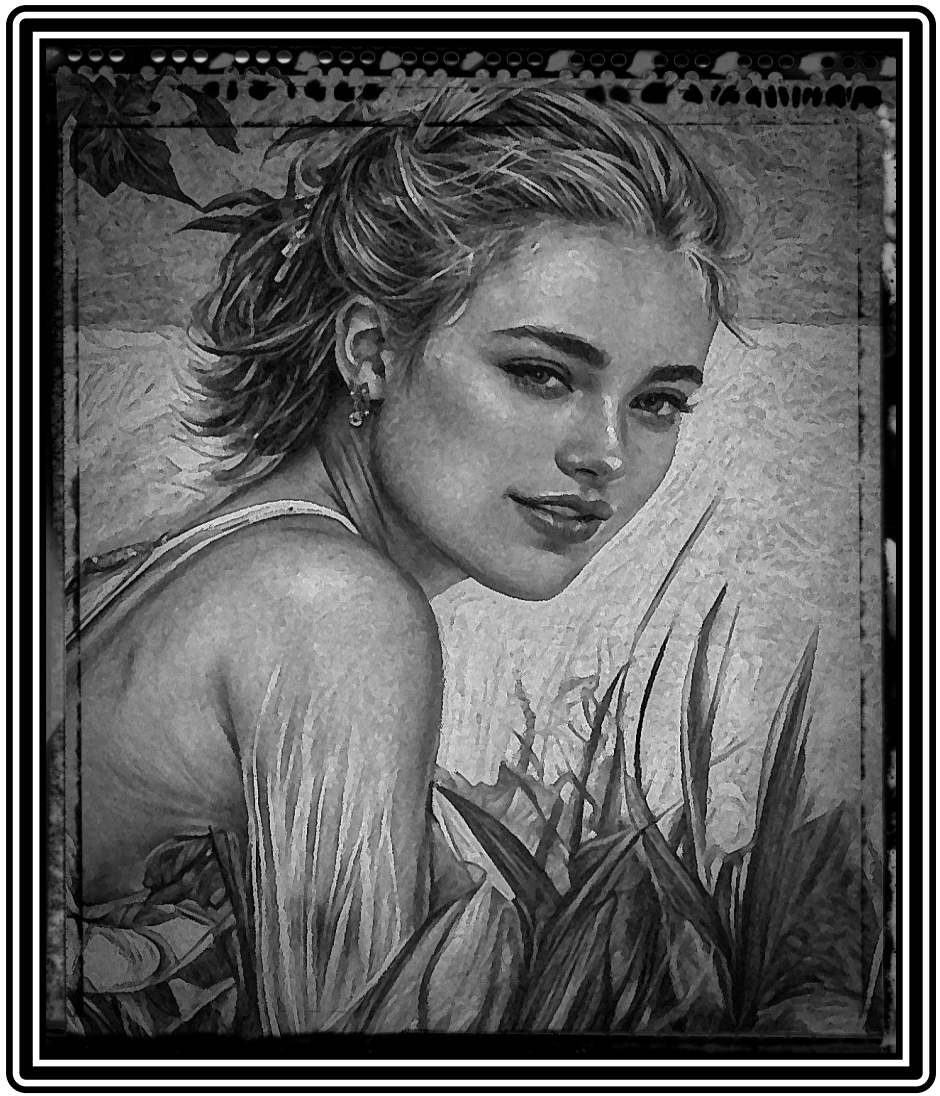

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This revelation cast a shadow over the vibrant market, transforming it from a bustling hub of culture and entertainment into a somber reminder of the shifting political landscape.

The doorman expressed his belief that the ongoing discussions surrounding the so-called "Jewish" issues were merely a political maneuver.

He pointed out that the Jewish Business Community had backed

the Communists in the previous election, and he had heard that the same financial supporters were also behind the pro-French and pro-League of Nations factions during the recent plebiscite.
With a hint of nostalgia, he admitted that he actually missed the French military officers and administrators, noting their generous tipping habits.
Just as he was about to elaborate further, the manager interrupted, calling him back to his duties and

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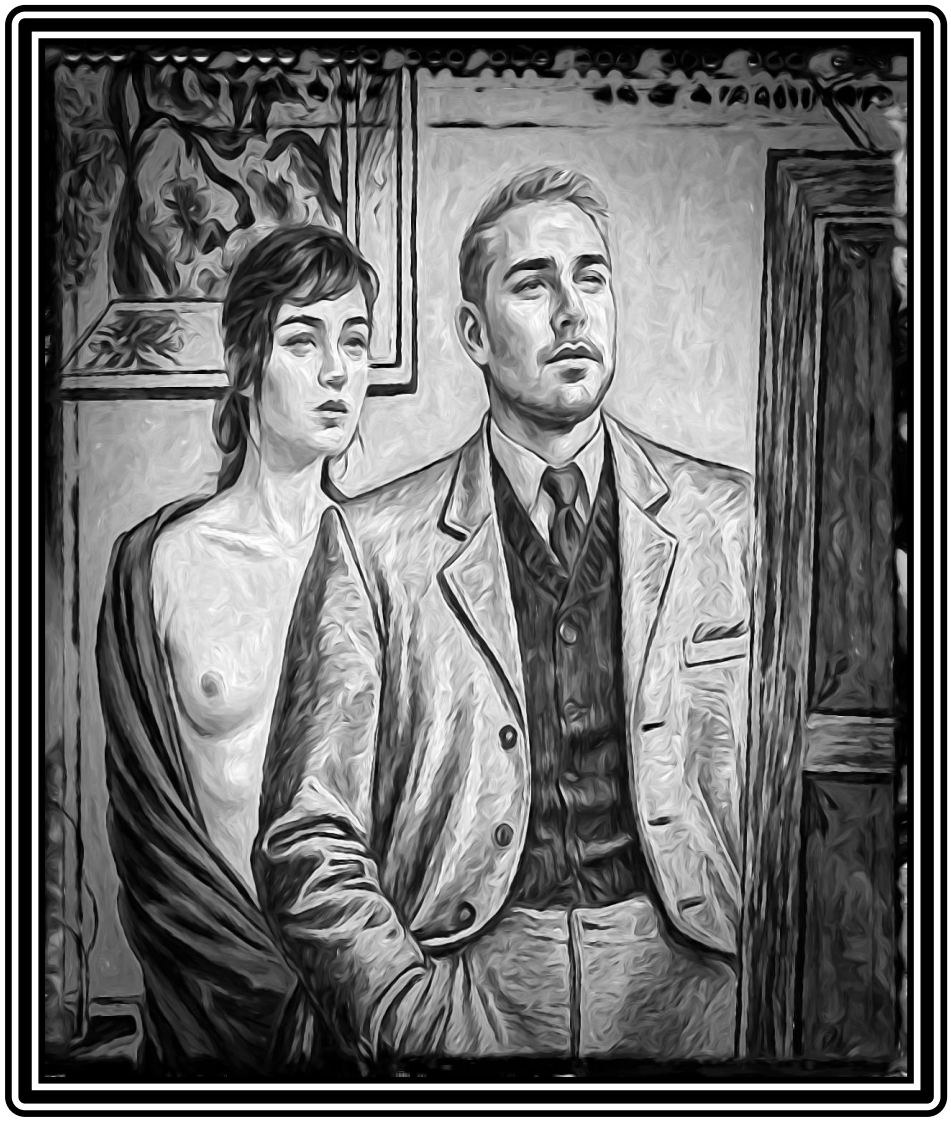

reminding him that the current reality was that they were in Germany now.
After considering the doorman's additional recommendation, I made my way to the Bauhaus zum Stiefel, where I had a conversation with the new manager.
He was intrigued by my artistic samples, particularly those I had brought from Cuba and Madrid, and he graciously allowed me to set up a small table in the back of the restaurant.

This opportunity allowed me to showcase my portrait business to his clientele.
The manager's interest was further piqued by the fact that he had a brother who was involved in the fight against the communists with Franco in Spain, creating a personal connection that added depth to our discussion and ultimately facilitated my presence in his establishment.
The doorman had been right all along; when those Frenchmen

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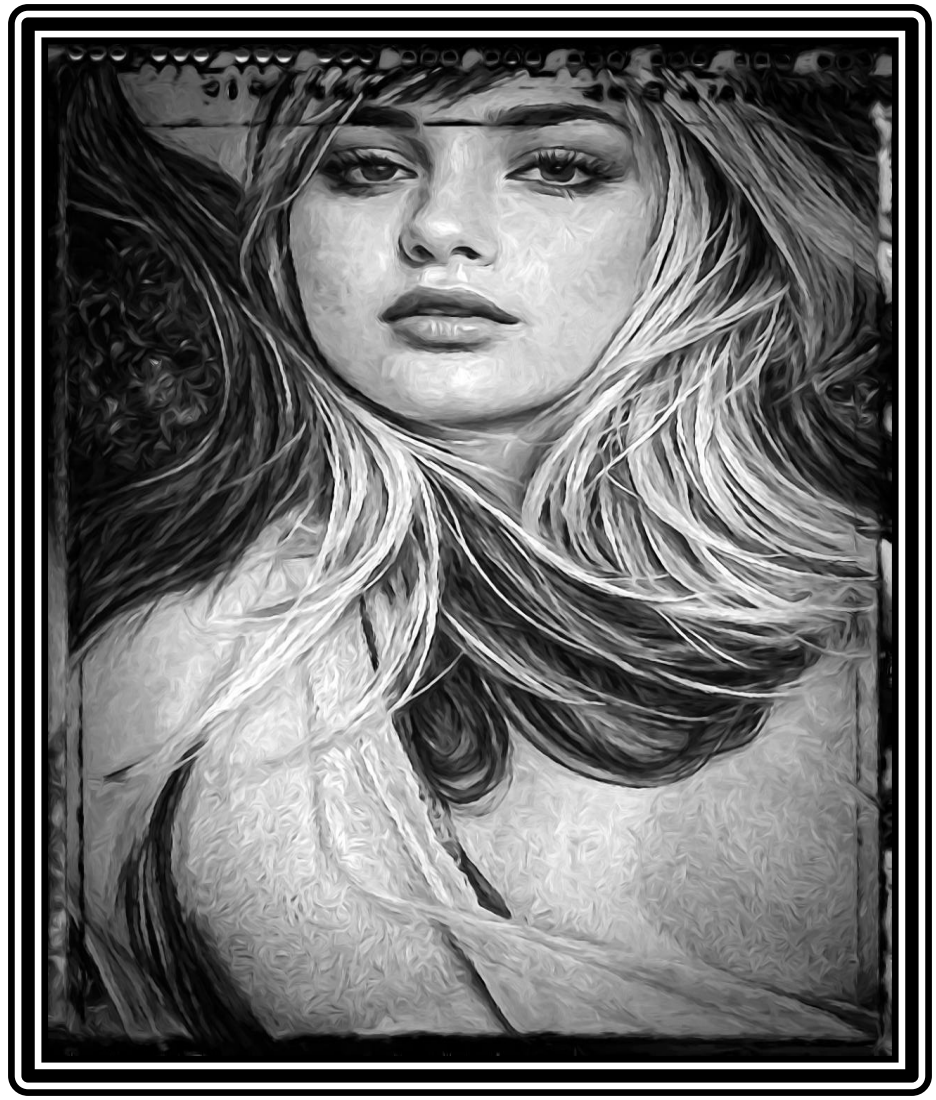

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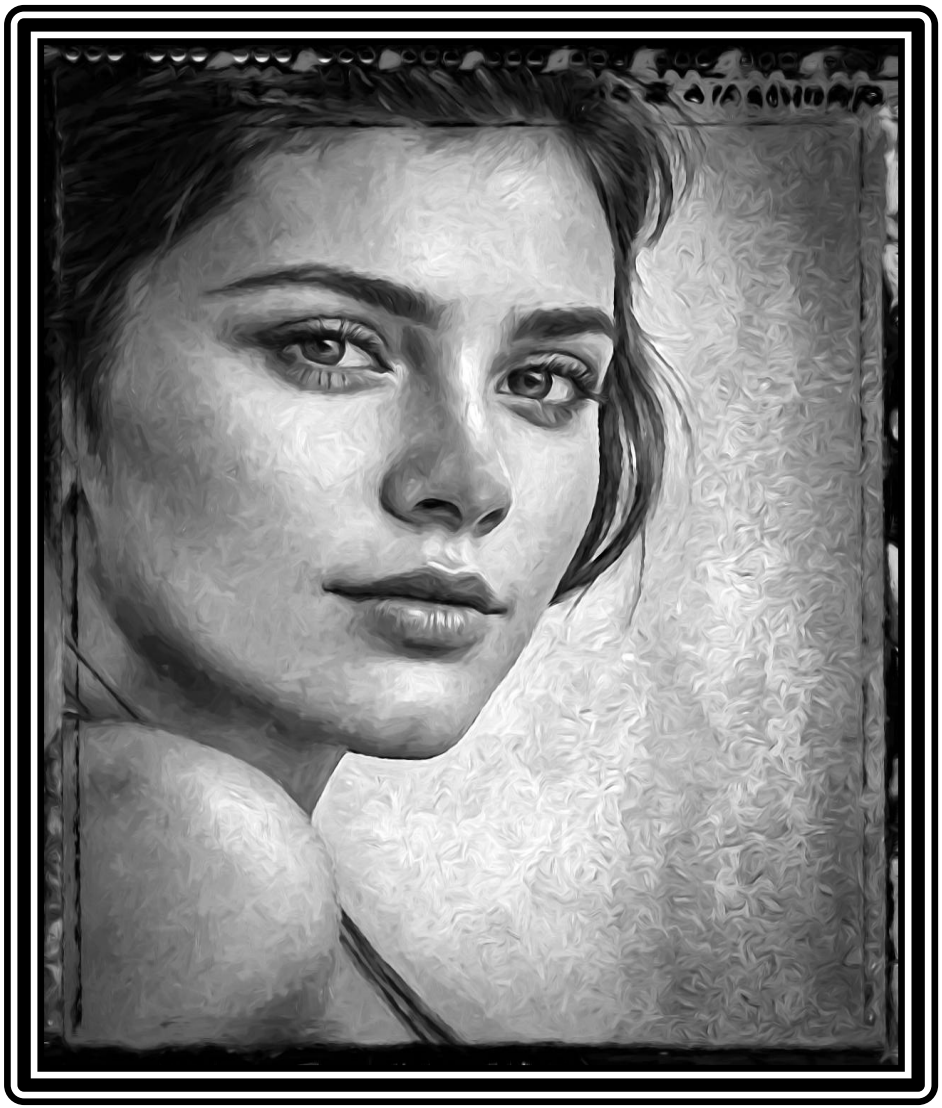

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departed, they took a significant portion of the town's wealth with them.

This exodus was particularly impactful given the dire state of the German Mark, which was languishing at an abysmally low value.

Despite the government's efforts to stabilize the currency by establishing a new exchange rate that pegged it at over two marks for every US dollar, this rate was met with skepticism and outright rejection.

Merchants in Saarbrucken, for instance, refused to accept the new valuation, clinging instead to the reality of the Mark's diminished value.
The economic landscape was fraught with uncertainty, leaving many to wonder how the town would recover from such a financial blow.
The challenges I faced were twofold, primarily stemming from the dismal exchange rate for the mark, which made it nearly impossible to find anyone

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willing to facilitate a currency exchange.
This situation was exacerbated by the political climate surrounding the use of francs; employing them in public spaces could easily draw the attention of aggressive SA Thugs, who would swarm around, accusing individuals of being French spies or worse.
Such a hostile environment not only made transactions difficult but also severely hindered the potential for profitable business

dealings, as the fear of confrontation loomed large over every financial interaction.
The old man's words echoed in my mind: "It is what it is!" This stark reminder of our current predicament weighed heavily on me as I awaited Seine's return from the Chinese legation in Berlin.
The uncertainty surrounding our travel papers loomed large, casting a shadow over our plans. Until we receive the good news that we so desperately hope for,

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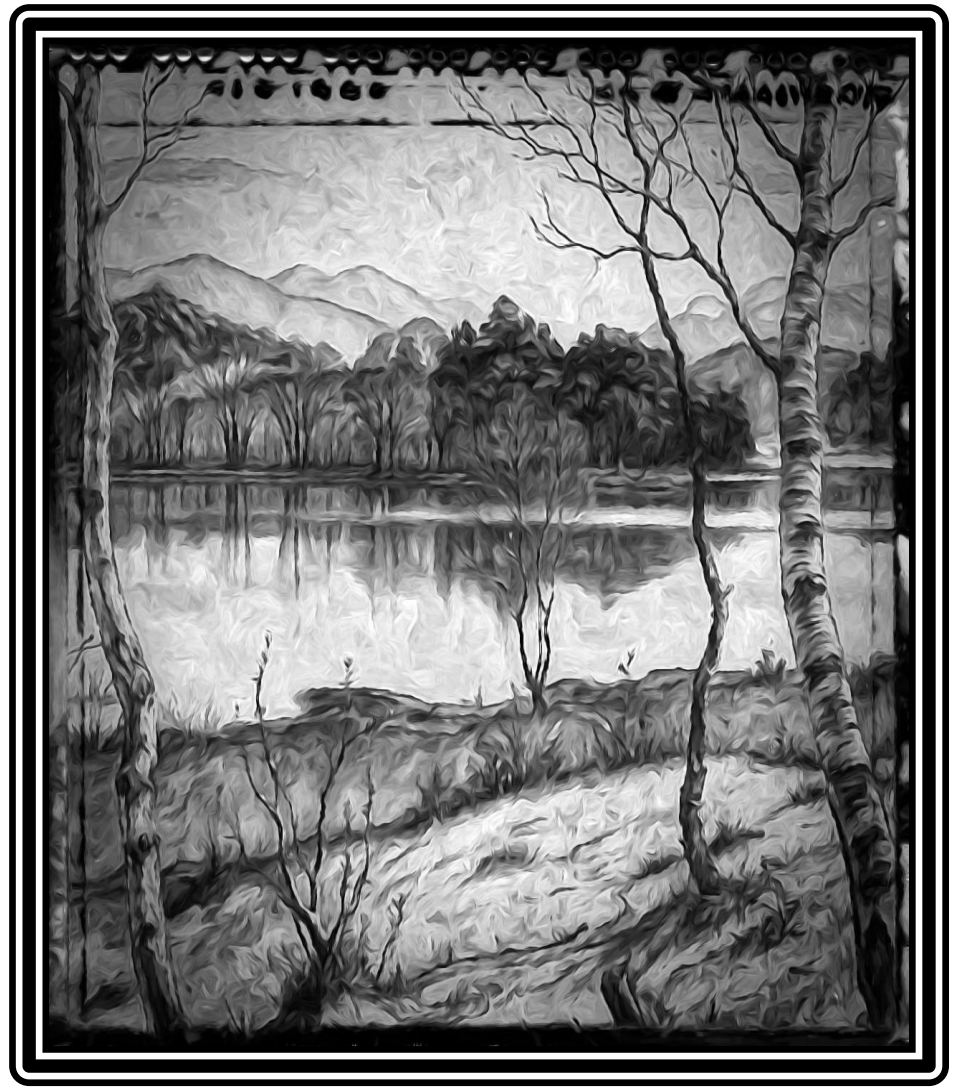

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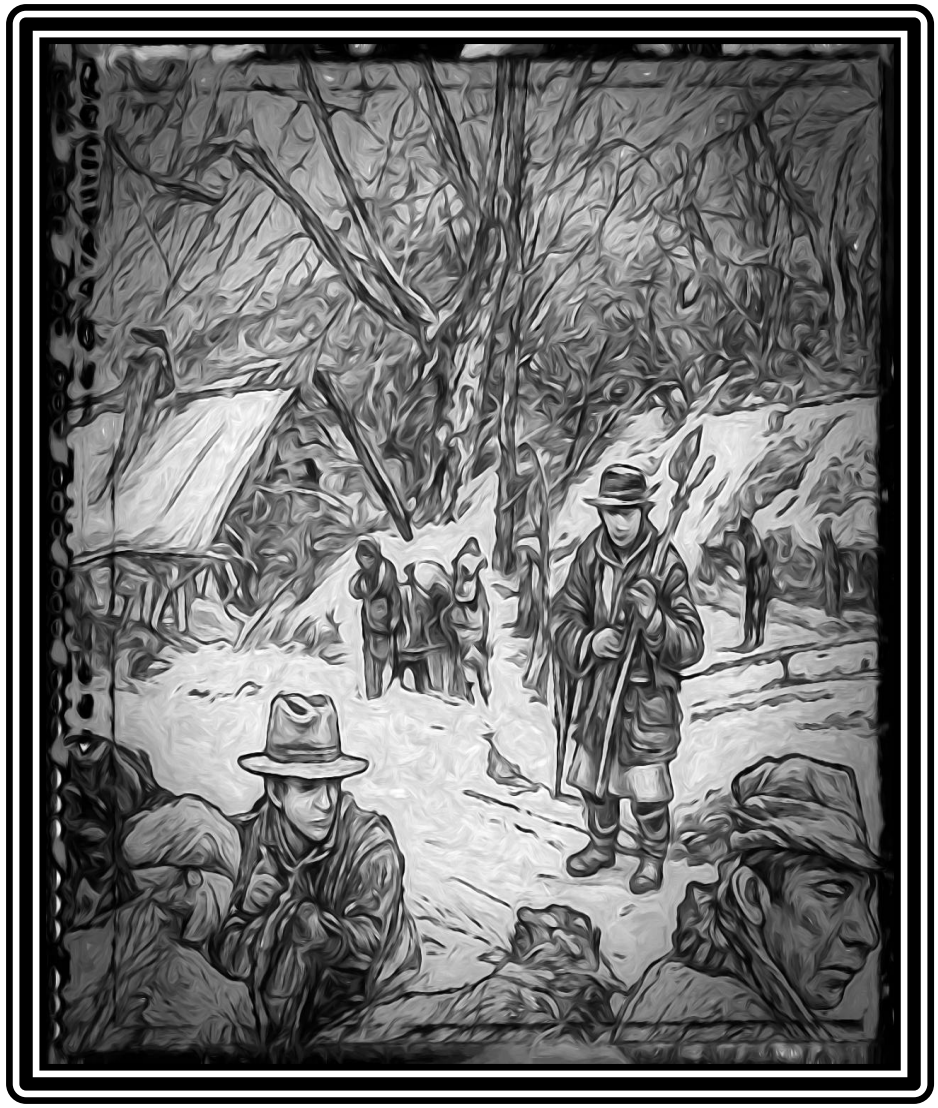

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we remain in a state of limbo, caught between anticipation and frustration.
Each passing moment feels like an eternity, as I cling to the hope that Seine will bring back the necessary documents to set our journey in motion.
Seine is filled with optimism regarding his partnership with Liu Chongjie's sister, as well as the formal business proposal he received from Hans von Seeckt, a prominent figure in the

German Business Association of Nanking.
He believes that these useful connections will ultimately lead to success in his endeavors.
Next week in Homburg will be pivotal; it is there that Seine and Claudie are scheduled to meet with me to finalize arrangements for our journey to Shanghai.
The anticipation of this meeting is palpable, as it holds the potential to determine the course of our plans and aspirations.

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During this time, I will rely on volume and barter as my means of survival, navigating the challenges of life with resourcefulness and determination.

Each day is a testament to resilience, as I continue to seek out opportunities to trade goods and services for my art, ensuring that I will be able to meet my basic needs.

In moments of quiet reflection, I ask you all to light a candle and

whisper a prayer, hoping for strength and guidance to carry me through the uncertainties that lie ahead.

Emil, 1935

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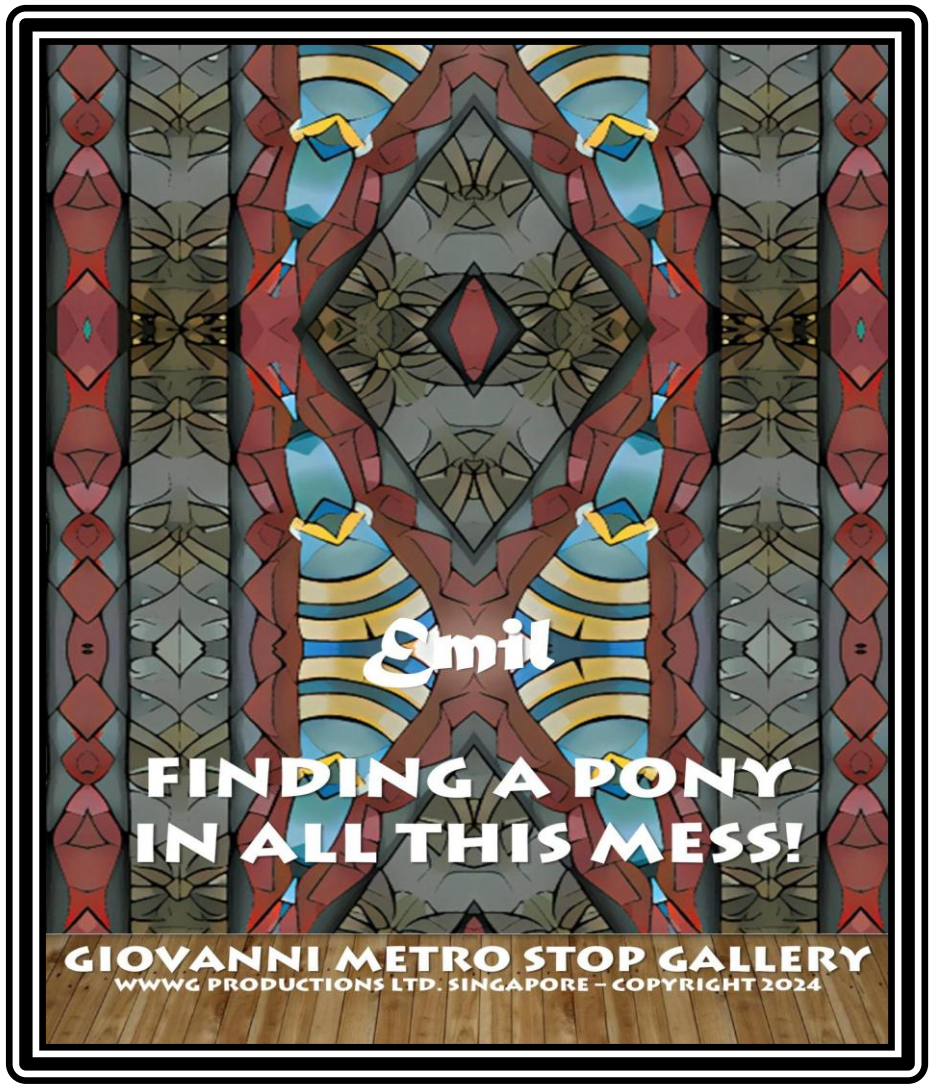

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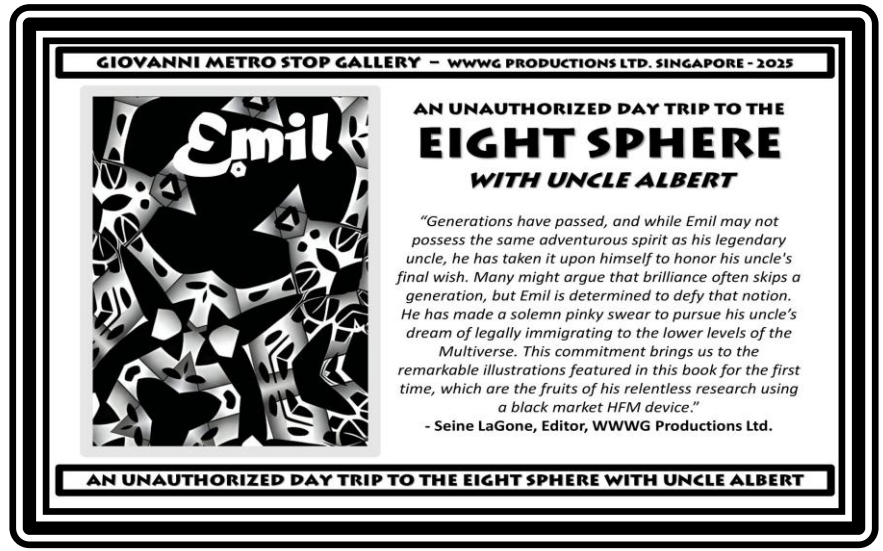
GIOVANNI METRO STOP GALLERY – WWWG PRODUCTIONS LTD. SINGAPORE - 2025
Emil
AN UNAUTHORIZED DAY TRIP TO THE
EIGHT SPHERE
WITH UNCLE ALBERT
"Generations have passed, and while Emil may not possess the same adventurous spirit as his legendary uncle, he has taken it upon himself to honor his uncle's final wish. Many might argue that brilliance often skips a generation, but Emil is determined to defy that notion. He has made a solemn pinky swear to pursue his uncle's dream of legally immigrating to the lower levels of the Multiverse. This commitment brings us to the remarkable illustrations featured in this book for the first time, which are the fruits of his relentless research using a black market HFM device."
- Seine LaGone, Editor, WWWG Productions Ltd.
AN UNAUTHORIZED DAY TRIP TO THE EIGHT SPHERE WITH UNCLE ALBERT

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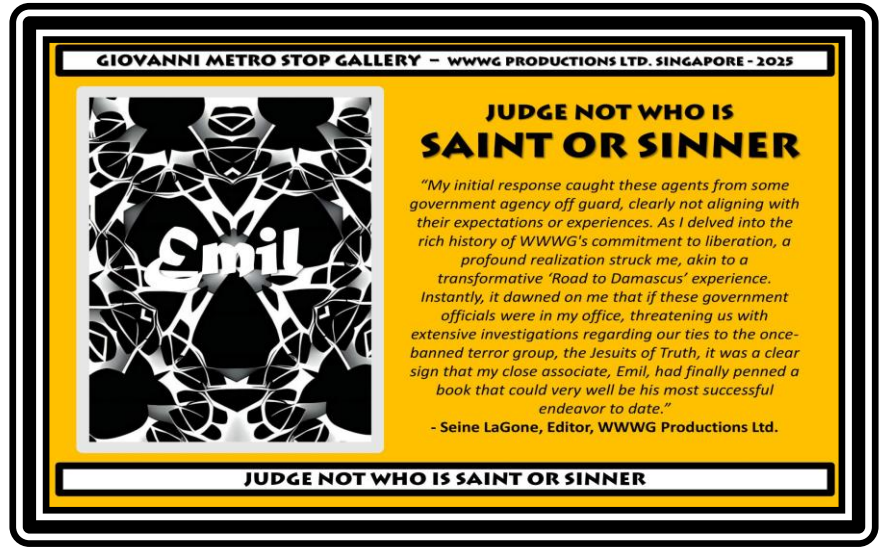
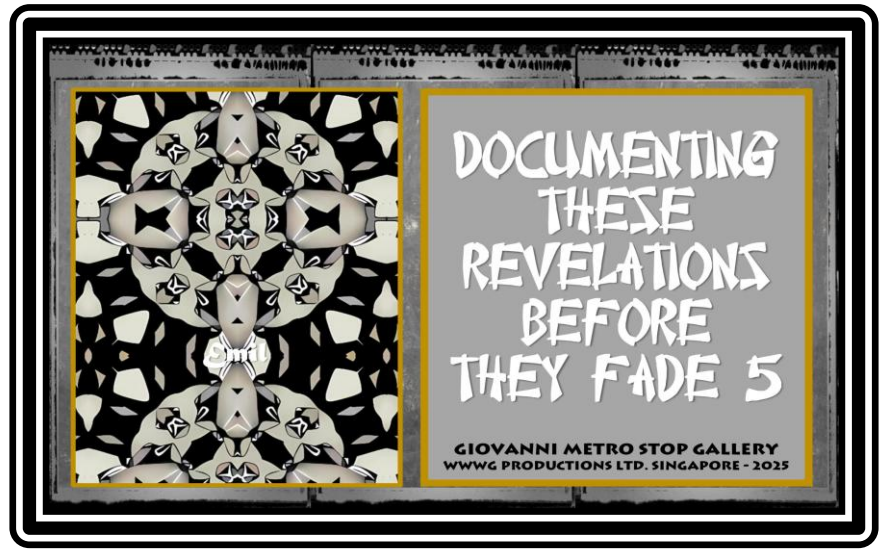

GIOVANNI METRO STOP GALLERY – WWWG PRODUCTIONS LTD. SINGAPORE - 2025
Emil
JUDGE NOT WHO IS
SAINT OR SINNER
"My initial response caught these agents from some government agency off guard, clearly not aligning with their expectations or experiences. As I delved into the rich history of WWWG's commitment to liberation, a profound realization struck me, akin to a transformative 'Road to Damascus' experience. Instantly, it dawned on me that if these government officials were in my office, threatening us with extensive investigations regarding our ties to the once-banned terror group, the Jesuits of Truth, it was a clear sign that my close associate, Emil, had finally penned a book that could very well be his most successful endeavor to date."
- Seine LaGone, Editor, WWWG Productions Ltd.
JUDGE NOT WHO IS SAINT OR SINNER



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